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18 MARCH 1987

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INDONESIA

ACTING MINISTER REFLECTS ON COMMUNISM IN PACIFIC

BK181009 Jakarta BERITA BUANA in Indonesian 10 Feb 87 pp 1, 9

[Text] Jakarta--Acting Foreign Minister Surono has said that the development of communism in Pacific countries, particularly in the South Pacific, is inseparable from the presence of the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China in this region.

Answering questions from MP's at a hearing with Commission I presided over by Vice Chairman Subekti at the House of Representatives building at Senayan, Jakarta, on Monday [9 February] Acting Foreign Minister Surono said that Soviet presence in the South Pacific relatively lags behind that of other big countries.

According to him, this situation has motivated the Soviet Union to expand its diplomatic and economic activities to gain fishery, port, and air facilities and enhance the presence of its navy. He said that the PRC has taken steps to establish contacts with Pacific island countries.

Compared with the Soviet Union, the PRC has been more successful in its diplomatic offensive. The PRC has established diplomatic missions in Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa, and Vanuatu.

The Soviet Union has established diplomatic relations with Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Tonga, and Western Samoa through its missions in Jakarta, Canberra, and Wellington respectively.

According to Surono, who is also coordinating minister for politics and security, Cuba has opened its mission in Vanuatu. Thus, like other developing countries, South Pacific island countries are not closed to the expansion of international communism. However, Indonesia believes that these countries will be able to face this influence.

Japanese Defense

Answering questions from MP's on an increase in Japan's defense budget, Surono hoped that it would be solely for self-defense purposes and would not lead to a defense capability which may alarm the ASEAN countries in particular.

According to him, Japan should use any excessive funds to help the development of developing countries instead of using it to strengthen its military capability.

Commenting on the recent development in the PRC, he viewed as unclear the trends of the recent internal political development in the PRC.

He said that news about student action and the resignation of CPC General Secretary Hu Yaobang is still tempered with many speculations.

The PRC seems to be continuing economic development and its modernization program despite a series of changes in the highest leadership. This is reflected by the appointment of Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang, who is also a confident of Deng Xiaoping, as acting CPC general secretary.

Considering that the present PRC regime still concentrates on economic and development matters. [sentence as published]

/9738

CSO: 4213/53

INDONESIA

SUHARTO GIVES BRIEFING ON ASEAN

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 7 Feb 87 pp A5, A6

[Text] Singapore, Feb 7 (ANTARA)--President Soeharto has confirmed that ASEAN cooperation is aimed at improving the national resilience of the ASEAN members and not at the establishment of a military or political pact.

The Indonesian Head of Government made the statement before Indonesian citizens in Singapore at the Indonesian embassy in this Island state Friday afternoon.

The President was in Singapore for a one-day working visit after visiting Johor Baru, Malaysia, since Thursday.

The exchange of visit between ASEAN leaders is considered important to create wider opportunities for them to hold communications and exchange views on the enhancement of ASEAN cooperation, the President said.

He stated that the exchange of information should involve not only government leaders and government officials, but also businessmen and other communities in the region.

The target of ASEAN cooperation is not only creating peace, freedom and neutrality in the region, but promoting national resilience in each member country as well, he said, adding that only with national resilience the nation would be able to cope with all challenges.

National resilience is of importance to the creation of national stability which is required in securing the progress of development, he pointed out.

ASEAN cooperation has so far proved to be beneficial and countries outside ASEAN have taken into account the presence of this regional association, he revealed.

Concerning the forthcoming general election in Indonesia, the President said it constituted a barometer for the Indonesian people after they received Pancasila as the sole principle of the nation and country.

/9317

CSO: 4200/359

MOCHTAR COMMENTS ON JAPANESE INVESTMENT

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 3 Feb 87 p A5

[Text] Tokyo, February 3 (ANTARA)--Indonesian foreign minister Mochtar Kusumaatmaja has said that he did not worry about the big flow of Japanese investments to any other country as these investments will finally turn back to ASEAN.

In a stopover in Tokyo after attending the Islamic summit in Kuwait, the Indonesian foreign minister explained that a too big investment in one country such as in the United States would at last create problems as it is the case with the present big trade surplus.

According to Mochtar the surplus in the Japanese trade balance will be utilized by Japan to invest in the developing countries and in so doing, it would show the rising Japanese consciousness, and that it is no longer adequate for Japan to seek solely for profits in the developing countries.

The Japanese entrepreneurs should also utilize their profits to assist the economy of the developing countries, Mochtar said at the Japan-ASEAN meeting here Saturday.

During his meeting with his Japanese counterpart, Tadashi Kuranari, the Indonesian foreign minister reminded of the important role Japan could play in assisting the economic development of the countries in southeast Asia and the south Pacific.

Mochtar said that Japan requires input from other countries, prior to investing capital in developing countries and discussed new steps in Japan's foreign policy towards developing countries.

At the Japan-ASEAN meeting, the first of its kind, organized by the semi-official Japan Institute for International Affairs, Mochtar read a working paper titled "Peace, Stability and Prosperity in Southeast Asia," an Indonesian view reflecting his personal views.

/9317

CSO: 4200/359

AGREEMENT WITH MALAYSIA ON IMMIGRANTS, TRADE, EDUCATION

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 6 Feb 87 p A1

[Text] Johor Baharu, Feb 6 (ANTARA)--Indonesia and Malaysia have agreed to seek a good solution over the problem of entry of Indonesians into Malaysia illegally, Junior Minister Cabinet Secretary Murdiono has stated.

Murdiono was on the occasion speaking before the press together with Malaysian Foreign Minister Rais Yatim after a meeting between President Soeharto and Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad at Setulang Palace here Thursday.

Rais Yatim told reporters that both countries would formulate new strategies to overcome this problem, while Murdiono said both sides would cope with this matter properly and with full of understanding.

The 90 minute closed-door meeting between President Soeharto and Prime Minister Mohamad took place at the palace, which is also used as the State Guest House.

Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmaja and his Malaysian counterpart also held a discussion in another room in the palace while both Heads of State had talks.

Following the meeting, Mochtar told the press that Malaysia has indicated its willingness to buy Indonesian-made helicopters BO-105.

Malaysia has also expressed its readiness to accept Indonesian Hercules aircraft for maintenance services in this country.

Touching on trade, Mochtar said that Malaysia wanted to boost bilateral economic and trade cooperation since the trade between both countries had so far been in favour of the Indonesian side.

"We will consider this possibility," the minister said, adding that the question of stepping up trade also depended on businessmen of the two countries.

In the education sector, Mochtar stated that cooperation in this field has been encouraged continuously, particularly in the student exchange program.

/9317

CSO: 4200/359

INDONESIA, MALAYSIA BORDER CROSSING POST INAUGURATED

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 6 Feb 87 pp A5, A6

[Text] Pontianak, February 6 (ANTARA)--On behalf of the Indonesian Armed Forces commander, the sixth Military Regional commander, Major General Feisal Tanjung, Thursday inaugurated the first ever land border crossing post in the Entekong village bordering Malaysia and Indonesia in West Kalimantan.

Feisal Tanjung said that the setting up of the post was an effort to put border crossings in order following the fact that they are difficult to stop due to economic and socio-cultural factors.

Indonesia and Malaysia have conducted long discussions over the matter before they decide to set up the post, he said.

This post is important for the sake of the two countries' interests as well as the interests of the people in Serawak and West Kalimantan.

As it is also a means of safeguarding the security and order in the border area Feisal Tanjung has requested for a full enforcement of the regulations and procedures of border crossing for the sake of preventing unnecessary incidents.

He hoped that all offices concerned would provide the post guards with all the necessary documents relating to border crossing they had produced.

In view of the fact that the guards will deal with the people of the neighbouring as well as other countries, he asked the guards to uphold watchfulness, carefulness, strictness in polite and kind manner.

The 121 military resort commander, Col Aspar Aswin, said the legal basis for the setting up of the post was Malaysia-Indonesia's basic arrangement on border crossing of May 26, 1967, border crossing agreement of August 24, 1970 and the Indonesian Armed Forces commander's order.

The organization of the Entikong post involves elements from the police, military police, customs and excise, immigration, health service, trade office and the regional administration.

In general, the post is meant for controlling border crossers and traffic of goods and animals based on the Indonesian regulations.

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CSO: 4200/359

INDONESIA

ETHIOPIAN MINISTERS CALL ON SUHARTO 4 FEBRUARY

BK140922 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0700 GMT 14 Feb 87

[Text] The Ethiopian Government will implement a transmigration program similar to the one currently implemented in Indonesia. Ethiopian Construction Minister Kassa Gerbre and Agriculture Minister Geremew Debele were speaking to reporters after paying a courtesy call on President Suharto at Binagraha [presidential office] in Jakarta this morning. They said in the initial stage Ethiopia will resettle two million people in a resettlement area, in accordance with plans already drawn up.

The 7-man Ethiopian Government delegation led by Construction Minister Kassa Gebre has been in Indonesia for a week. Yesterday, the delegation, accompanied by Transmigration Minister Martono, visited a training center for would-be transmigrants run by the Dharmais Foundation in Ciluar, Bogor, and the Saguling [hydroelectric] project in a region where most of the inhabitants have been resettled. Earlier, the Ethiopian delegation visited transmigration areas in South Sumatera.

Meanwhile, Transmigration Minister Martono told reporters that the transmigration program is going on and even being enlarged to include intellectuals. Minister Martono cited an example in which intellectuals, mostly from the Gajahmada University, had been resettled in Bengkulu to teach at the Bengkulu University. An interesting feature of this program is that children of the transmigrants wishing to further their studies at the tertiary level will be accepted in the university. According to Minister Martono, the transmigration program will not be confined to farmers but will be emphasized for people of all strata in overpopulated areas.

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CSO: 4213/53

TOTAL FOREIGN FUNDING OF PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS DESIRED

Jakarta ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN in English 4 Feb 87 p A4

[Text] Jakarta, February 3 (ANTARA)---The ministry of public works, hit by a drastic cut in the current budget for public works construction, is now expecting the donor countries to increase their funding to 100 percent in the projects concerned.

"Ideally, the donor countries can provide all the funds," said Minister of Public Works Suyono Sosrodarsono at a hearing with Parliament here Tuesday.

Suyono hoped at least the construction costs of projects completed with foreign aid are totally covered by external funds. Normally the creditors earmarked only 70 to 80 percent of the required funds for construction costs.

He said more external funds are very vital for the continuation of the public works projects whose budget was deeply cut this year.

The government has made a slash of around 30 percent in the budget for public works, notably from Rp 397,350 billion for 1986/1987 down to Rp 117.7 billion for 1987/1988. This year's amount was even 50 percent lower than the 1985/1986 budget.

In coping with this funding problem, the government is now inviting private business to include their capital in public works projects, in particular, the construction of toll roads, supply of fresh water and construction services.

On toll road construction, a consortium comprising seven national private companies was formed recently to finance the construction of a 16.5-kilometer flyover linking the Tanjung Priok seaport with Cawang, the Eastern section of Jakarta.

Many foreign investors from Japan, Italy, France and West Germany have shown their interest in investment in the construction of 17 toll roads offered by the government this year. But no confirmation has been received.

Most of them have complained about the complex procedures, lingering time and big expenses in settling land clearance for the projects.

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CSO: 4200/359

INDONESIA

BRIEFS

OIL, GAS CONTRACT SIGNED--The State Oil and Gas Company [Pertamina] and Occidental Bureau of Indonesia have signed a production-sharing contract on the exploitation of oil and natural gas off the coast of Irian Jaya covering an area of 22,650 square kilometers. Under the contract, the foreign oil company will incur the expenses for exploration, investment, and production. The company will obtain 15 percent of the oil production and 30 percent of the natural gas production. The contract was signed in Jakarta on 12 February by Mining and Energy Minister Subroto and Pertamina President Director A.R. Ramli representing the Indonesian Government and the director of Occidental Bureau of Indonesia. [Summary] [Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0600 GMT 12 Feb 87 BK] /9738

TRADE MEMORANDUM WITH ALGERIA--Indonesia and Algeria signed a memorandum of understanding and note of discussions on trade in Jakarta today. The Indonesian Government was represented by Kuncorosakti, director general for foreign trade of the trade department, while the Algerian delegation was represented by (Charif Ahmed), director for exports promotion at the Algerian Trade Ministry. Under the note of discussions on trade, Algeria agreed to buy from Indonesia timber and coffee commodities for a long term. The two sides also agreed to undertake a feasibility study on the production of fertilizers with phosphate from Algeria as the raw material. In the meantime, Algeria offered Indonesia pig iron to meet the needs of iron factories in Indonesia. [Text] [Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 12 Feb 87 BK] /9738

BRUNEI DEPUTY MINISTER MET--In Jakarta today, Acting Foreign Minister Surono and Brunei Darussalam Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Haji Zakaria Bin Haji Sulaiman discussed Indonesian-Brunei relations and the promotion of relations within the framework of ASEAN. The Brunei Darussalam deputy foreign minister stressed the need for the continued development of Indonesian-Brunei cooperation, particularly in the development field. The Brunei deputy foreign minister is in Indonesia for a 5-day visit. He arrived in Jakarta on Wednesday and will leave for home on Sunday. [Text] [Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 13 Feb 87 BK] /9738

MALAYSIA ORDERS GROUND STATIONS--Malaysia has again ordered six Indonesian-made small ground stations to be used for its communications system and television broadcasting. The business and administration director of P.T. Inti Bandung, producer of the small ground station said that the six units ordered by Malaysia cost a total of six million ringgit and would be completed by the end of this year. Previously, Malaysia used the Indonesian-made small ground stations in 1983; and then in 1985 they ordered another two units. The sophisticated telecommunications equipment produced by Indonesian experts has obtained recognition from the government. Apart from being used by ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries, marketing in the Middle East nations is also being explored. [Text] [Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0700 GMT 17 Feb 87 BK] /9738

EXPORTS TO NEW ZEALAND DROP--Indonesia's exports to New Zealand showed a massive fall in value from US\$ 220 million in 1984 to US\$ 75 million in 1985 and US\$ 56 million in the first nine months of 1986, according to statistical data collected by the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS). The supply of goods from Indonesia to New Zealand was worth US\$ 21 million in 1981, US\$ 253 million in 1982 and US\$ 215 million in 1983, the data show. The plunge of Indonesia's foreign exchange earnings from exporting commodities to New Zealand in 1985 and 1986 is mainly due to the fall in the value of oil/gas shipments from Indonesia to that state from US\$ 212 million in 1984 to only US\$ 68 million in 1985. The supply of non-oil/gas commodities from Indonesia to that country in 1985 included: tea--US\$ 2 million, coffee--US\$ 2 million, furniture--US\$ 47,000, handicraft products--US\$ 57,000, crude refined glycerol and glycerolles--US\$ 562,000, textile/garments--US\$ 861,000, chemicals--US\$ 151,000, writing/printing paper--US\$ 194,000, tobacco--US\$ 32,000, timber/wood products--US\$ 94,000 and other commodities--US\$ 44,000. Indonesia's imports from New Zealand stood at US\$ 69 million in 1985 and US\$ 59 million in the first nine months of 1986. [Text] [Jakarta BUSINESS NEWS in English 30 Jan 87 p 6] /9317

OIL PRODUCTION SHARING CONTRACT SIGNED--Mobil oil, a US oil company has signed a production sharing contract with the Indonesian state-owned oil company Pertamina for the exploration of oil fields in the Madura Strait and East Kalimantan land areas. The operational areas covered in the contract include the Madura Strait Block off-shore area handled by Hudbay Oil International Ltd, Husky Oil (Madura) Ltd, Penzoil Asiatic Inc, Hudbay Oil Madura Ltd as the operators. Mobile Madura Strait Inc, a subsidiary company of Mobil Oil Corporation, signed a farm-in agreement with those contractor companies recently. Based on the agreement, Mobil will soon start its exploration activities in the Madura Strait Block covering about 6,984 sq km, off-shore areas of Madura and East Java. Acting as an operator, Mobil Madura Strait Inc holds 42% of the shares. The other participants consist of TCR Madura Ltd--10%, Hudbay Oil Madura Ltd--14%, Penzoil Asiatic Inc--17% and Husky Oil (Madura) Ltd--17%. The operational areas in East Kalimantan included in the contract consists of the Adang Block land area covering 1,140 sq km. The area is handled by Jackson Kutei Basin Exploration Ltd, which acts as an operator of a group of oil companies, comprising Lucky Goldstar International Corp (PEDCO) BP Development (Indonesia) Ltd, and ICI Petroleum (Adang) Ltd. [Text] [Jakarta BUSINESS NEWS in English 11 Feb 87 p 9] /9317

TRADE WITH SOUTH KOREA--Indonesia's exports of commodities to South Korea, based on data collected by the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS), were worth US\$ 283 million in 1981, US\$ 611 million in 1982, US\$ 327 million in 1983, US\$ 595 million in 1984, US\$ 656 million in 1985 and US\$ 254 million in the first nine months of 1986. The supply of oil/gas from Indonesia to South Korea, compared with Indonesia's overall exports to the East Asian state, reached 82.6 percent in 1983, 85.5 percent in 1984 and 89.3 percent in 1985. This means Indonesia's oil/gas exports to that newly industrialised country have kept rising viewed from the composition of the overall exports. Indonesia's exports of commodities other than oil/gas to South Korea in 1985 comprised, among other things, US\$ 19 million worth of timber and wood products, US\$ 18 million worth of coffee, US\$ 7 million worth of fatty acid, US\$ 4 million worth of rattan and US\$ 4 million worth of livestock feed. IMPORTS: The supply of commodities Indonesia received from South Korea was worth US\$ 212 million in 1984, US\$ 205,000 million in 1985 and US\$ 118 million in the first nine months (first three quarters) of 1986. South Korea's supplies of commodities to Indonesia consist of, among other things, polymerization and copolymerization products, fabrics, woven products, man-made fibres, universal products, plates and sheets of iron steel. [Text] [Jakarta BUSINESS NEWS in English 30 Jan 87 p 5] [paragrah as published] /9317

TRADE DEFICIT WITH CANADA--Indonesia has sustained deficits in trade with Canada in the past some years. According to data presented by the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS), Indonesia's overall exports to Canada were worth US\$ 22 million in 1981, US\$ 19 million in 1982, US\$ 28 million in 1983, US\$ 46 million in 1984, US\$ 46 million in 1985 and US\$ 42 million in the first nine months of 1986. The value of Indonesia's imports from that North American country was registered at US\$ 319 million in 1984, US\$ 198 million in 1985 and US\$ 180 million in the first nine months of 1986. Indonesian commodities supplied to Canada include: rubber, handicraft products, plywood, textile, tea and coffee. From that state, Indonesia imports inorganic chemical elements, oxides, halogen salt, pulp and waste paper. [Text] [Jakarta BUSINESS NEWS in English 11 Feb 87 p 4] /9317

CASSAVA SUGAR MILL--The first sugar mill in Indonesia which will use cassava as a basic material is expected to start operation soon. Built in Mojokerto, East Java, at cost of Rp 14 billion, the plant will produce liquid sugar consumable to diabetics. According to the spokesman of the East Java administration, around 90% of the investment made for the setting up of the sugar mill is used for the purchase and installation of processing machines and equipment. The spokesman disclosed recently that the sugar mill, the biggest of this kind in Southeast Asia, would provide jobs for 360 people and benefit around 20,000 cassava growers. The plant will need some 500 tons of cassava daily or an average of about 150,000 tons of cassava annually to be processed into liquid sugar. East java produces around 4 million tons of cassava annually from 400,000 ha of land. The sugar mill, PG Lumbung Tani Indonesia, will buy cassava from the farmers at a price of Rp 45 to Rp 75 per kg, president director of the company David Lauwidjaja disclosed meanwhile. Cassava growers in East Java have so far sold their cassava for Rp 25/kg. With the assumption that the productivity of cassava plantations in the province is 10 to 15 tons per ha worth Rp 300,000, the creation of value added by the plant will reach about Rp 700,000. [Text] [Jakarta BUSINESS NEWS in English 11 Feb 87 p 8] /9317

OPPOSITION POLITICAL LEADERS 'LOCKED IN DISAGREEMENTS'

Candidates Warn Party Leaders

HK210823 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 21 Feb 87 pp 1, 3

[By Staffmember Vet Vitug]

[Excerpts] Exasperated by the failure of their leaders to settle their differences, opposition congressional bets are now forming or strengthening local political parties.

The opposition hopefuls have warned the leaders of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL), the Nacionalista Party (NP) and the Partido Nacionalista ng Pilipinas (PNP) that if they do not reach agreement by next week, they face a "revolt" from local leaders.

Quezon City congressional aspirant Rogelio Quiambao said Metro Manila congressional candidates have started laying the groundwork for the formation of a local political party to be known as "Malayang Nacionalista" or "Partido ng Malayang Nacionalista."

Elsewhere, the Mindanao Alliance led by Homobono Adaza is set to wage its electoral battle for congressional seats no matter what happens to the national opposition leadership.

Quiambao confirmed to the CHRONICLE that the opposition leadership is "locked in disagreements."

PNP President Blas Ople earlier said several meetings had been held among opposition leaders but has described discussions as "achieving another and generating more discordant notes."

The disunity was made more stark yesterday when the KBL and the NP (Cayetano wing) released different names of nominees for the senatorial slate.

A press statement issued by KBL acting President Nicanor Yniguez claimed that an alliance of opposition groups has agreed to trim down from 52 to 26 the nominees in the 11 May senatorial contest.

Yniguez said a special committee is perusing the list and its choices will be announced on 28 February during the KBL consultative meeting.

Political observers noted that the KBL list of senatorial aspirants was "at best speculative."

They pointed out that Enrile and Estrella, were more inclined in seeking a congressional berth. Ople's candidacy was still a big question following a Malacanang announcement that members of the 1986 Constitutional Commission cannot seek elective posts in this year's polls. Ople was a member of the Concom.

The observers added that it would be political suicide for Rene Espina and Gerry Espina to seek a Senate seat at the same time because they have the same family names. Under election rules, the voter has to specify the Espina he is voting and failure to do so would mean invalidation of the vote.

Newly Named Coalition Disunity

HK010742 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 1 Mar 87 pp 1, 5

[By Staffmember Yet Vitug]

[Text] Cracks in the brittle unity forged by the opposition emerged yesterday as two senatorial nominees of the Kilusang Bagon Lipunan (KBL) announced their determination to seek a Senate seat even as independent candidates.

This announcement cast doubts on the binding effect of an agreement among leaders of opposition parties to have one opposition Senate ticket to be chosen by a seven-man committee.

The opposition parties, which have united under the Grand Alliance for Democracy (GAD) said there was a need to unite to improve their chances of winning in the 11 May legislative polls.

KBL, in a national convention held in a Quezon City restaurant, presented yesterday 37 senatorial nominees who will be shortlisted by the party's central committees. The final list will be submitted today to the GAD selection committee.

The GAD senatorial slate will be announced no later than Tuesday.

Nominated by the KBL to the GAD slate were Arturo Tolentino, Nicanor Yniguez, Isidro Rodriguez, Salvador Britanico, Edith Nakpil Rabat, Ali Dimaporo, Vicente Magsaysay Jr., Salvador Escudero III, Jose Rono, Rafael Recto, Leonardo Perez, Wenceslao Rancap Lagumbay, Estelito Mendoza, Vicente Millom, Lorenzo Teves, Rodolfo Ganzon, Conrado Estrella, Vicente Puyat, Enrique Zobel, Gerardo Espina, Rodolfo Farinas, Mercedes Cojuangco Teodoro, Serafin Cuevas, Alberto Veloso, Pacifico de Leon, Jose Crisol, Edilberto del Valle, Roquito Ablan, Salacnid Baterina, Macabangcit Lanto, Antonio Tupaz, Firdaussi Abbas, Rufus Rodriguez, Manuel Collantes, Carlos Salazar, Mac Vicencio and Alejandro Almendras.

Despite assurances that all nominees will abide by the GAD's decision, former Laoag City Mayor Rodolfo Farinas and former MP Gerardo Espina are determined to seek a Senate seat.

Farinas told the CHRONICLE he did not want to be identified with any political party and was said yesterday to have withdrawn from the KBL nomination to the senatorial slate.

Espina said he will most likely run as an independent candidate if the GAD selection committee excludes him from its senatorial ticket.

Farinas, who has been closely identified with Ferdinand Marcos Jr., son of deposed President Marcos, said he is counting on the support of the Jaycees in his senatorial bid.

Farinas, currently national president of the Philippine Jaycees, said members of the civic organization want him to run as an independent candidate in order for him to count on their support.

Farinas' and Espina's stance might also be duplicated by other KBL nominees determined to seek a senatorial slot but whose political ambitions might be frustrated by the GAD selection committee.

Earlier reports said that some KBL nominees closely identified with Marcos cannot make it to the selection committee due to strong objections of some party leaders.

Press for Electoral Reforms

HK280658 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 28 Feb 87 pp 1, 7

[By Staffmember Vet Vitug]

[Text] Opposition senatorial aspirants yesterday renewed their threat to boycott the 11 May legislative polls even as they expressed confidence of winning a substantial number of Senate seats.

Nacionalista Party Secretary-General Renato Cayetano said implementation of electoral reforms is a precondition of the opposition's participation in the senatorial contest.

Meanwhile, Juan Ponce Enrile said he was running for congress, signalling his political comeback bid after he was sacked as defense minister last year.

REUTERS quoted him as saying in a breakfast forum that he preferred a seat in the House of Representatives but might run for the Senate if that would strengthen the opposition. The opposition also criticized the Government yesterday for its failure to issue the election laws which will govern the May polls.

In a letter, to Commission on Election (Comelec) Chairman Ramon Felipe, 12 opposition leaders led by Enrile said only a few days remain before the deadline for the filing of candidacy expires but the rules of the ball game were still unclear. "Why is it taking the President time to issue the law," the letter asked.

The opposition leaders also expressed fears that the Government may adopt the block voting system or the listing of candidates' names in the ballot with the voters checking the names of their preferences. They said that if any of those two methods were adopted, "the opposition will boycott the elections and search for other viable options."

But while the opposition threatened of boycott, its leaders have been working overtime to unite all opposition parties to be able to present a single senatorial slate.

The uneasy alliance forged three days ago will have its first test today when the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) chooses today its nominees for the senatorial slate during a national convention.

A statement said the KBL will nominate a complete 24 man senatorial. It was added that the names of the nominees will be forwarded to a seven-man committee which will pick the candidates of a coalition opposition known as Grand Alliance for Democracy [GAD].

KBL acting President Nicanor Yniguez said that his party's nominees "are prepared to withdraw in favor of whoever may be chosen to compose the opposition senatorial ticket by the seven-man committee."

Despite this assurance, some opposition leaders could not categorically say that the KBL will not put up its own senatorial slate in case some of its nominees will be rejected by the seven-man committee.

Some opposition leaders in the alliance publicly and privately expressed that some KBL leaders "are not acceptable." However, Homobono Adaza of the Mindanao Alliance said yesterday that the KBL is fully bound by the decision of the committee created to pick the opposition senatorial slot.

Asked if some KBL figures like Rafael Recto and Salvador Britanico are acceptable to all those who affiliated with GAD, Adaza said the alliance members "will provide answers to concrete questions."

Assessing the strength of the opposition and the ruling coalition, senatorial aspirant Francisco Tatad said the ruling coalition has the advantage of material resources. He added, however, that such advantage "can be offset by the moral and intellectual resources of the opposition."

Tatad also alleged and decried the use of Government funds to finance the campaign of Government candidates. Tatad claimed that the Administration purchased yellow T-shirts worth P100 million and that the departments are being asked to pay for it.

Enrile to Aid Candidates

HK231409 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 23 Feb 87 p 6

[From column by Jesus Bigornia: "Why Enrile is Not Running for the Senate"]

[Text] As articulated by former Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, the emerging leader of a coalesced opposition, "the rules of the game are stacked against opposition candidates." Enrile likens an opposition aspirant to a runner with his feet shackled in chains, against a competitor sustained throughout the race by the logistics of the national government and cheered by pro-Aquino cohorts of the Namfrel [National Citizens' Movement on Free Elections], the so-called "citizens' arm" of the Comelec.

Because of the obvious handicaps facing opposition candidates for the Senate, most of opposition bug guns have their sights set on seats in the House of Representatives. In the congressional contest, it is pointed out, an oppositionist has a better chance of monitoring the electoral process. Such an aspirant, with a minimum budget and manpower, can better police polling places and ensure the proper recording of election results. Because a candidate for the House may have no more than a dozen towns to cover in his campaign and during the counting.

Enrile predicts that with him running for one of the congressional seats for Cagayan, he could take time out during the campaign to help opposition colleagues. "In this manner," he predicts, "more than half of the 16 congressmen for the three Cagayan Valley provinces should come from the opposition." Anticipating the President's sponsorship of political unknowns, the contests for the elective seats in the Lower Chamber should be a toss-up. He then concedes administration control of the House because of the power vested in the President to name 50 sectoral representatives.

Despite perceived handicaps, the opposition drawn toward the new Nacionalista Party [NP], is fielding a full ticket for the Senate. Release of Malacanang's prospective Senate lineup has enheartened the NP leadership to proceed with allies to draw up an opposition ticket. As described by Rene Cayetano, NP secretary general, most of the administration's hopefuls "are beatable, some are vulnerable and a few are saleable."

Yniguez on Preparations

OW281047 Tokyo KYODO in English 1024 GMT 28 Feb 87

[By Virgilio Galvez]

[Text] Manila, 28 February KYODO--Leaders of the New Society Movement (KBL), which deposed President Ferdinand Marcos founded at the peak of his 20 year rule, chose 38 nominees Saturday to be considered to stand as joint opposition candidates for the Senate in elections to be held 11 May.

KBL President Nicanor Yniguez told about 500 delegates attending a party caucus, "this meeting proves that the KBL is intact, is strong and can challenge the administration."

The campaign for seats to the 24-member Senate and the 250-member House of Representatives begins on 9 March, and the KBL will choose joint candidates with four other major opposition parties.

It will be the first political contest since last February's fraud-marred presidential election which sparked the civilian-backed military revolt that swept President Corazon Aquino to power.

Yniguez said, "when it comes to platforms and programs, the KBL has nothing to be ashamed of because (it) has served the people."

Besides the former speaker of the KBL-dominated parliament, which Aquino abolished, and former Marcos running mate Arturo Tolentino, the KBL nominees to the opposition coalition, Grand Alliance for Democracy (GAD), include five former cabinet ministers, 15 former parliamentarians, two prominent businessmen, and a close Marcos ally, Eduardo Cojuangco.

Leaders of five different opposition political parties had agreed to field a common slate for the senate during a meeting Wednesday at the home of former Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile.

Sacked last November from the Aquino Cabinet, Enrile has emerged as the rallying figure of the fractious opposition against Aquino. He had said he would run for the lower house, but has recently also said he might seek a Senate seat if drafted.

Enrile's Nacionalista Party (NP) is the main cog in the five-party opposition alliance which was formed in February to face the ruling coalition's candidates in the polls.

Tolentino told Saturday's meeting, "We will use all the constitutional methods in order to gain control of both houses."

Graft and corruption and the failure of Aquino to launch a land reform program will be among the issues which the opposition will present to the people during the campaign, he added.

Asked about the chances of the opposition, Yniguez said, "very good, without cheating, we will win."

He said there would be stability in the country after the elections even if the opposition did not gain control of both legislative houses because their presence would "provide checks."

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CSO: 4200/356

AQUINO TO DECLARE 'FREE ZONE' CONGRESS RACES

HK231359 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 23 Feb 87 pp 1, 12

[By J.J. Lacuarta]

[Text] Angeles city--President Aquino will declare as "free zones" congressional districts where her various supporters are running for seats and no opposition candidate is strong, Justice Secretary Neptali Gonzales said here Saturday.

Gonzales, who is a senatorial candidate in the administration ticket, said that "it would be very difficult for the President to proclaim one as against the others who are also her supporters."

The justice secretary, who spoke at a conference of the Department of Justice employees here, was informed that leaders of pro-Aquino political groups in Pampanga had petitioned the President to declare the province a "free zone" in the coming congressional and local elections.

When asked about the administration senatorial slate's chances of winning, Gonzales said "every one of us will work hard." He added that they "will always abide by the decision of the people in the coming polls."

In an interview with newsmen, Gonzales also disclosed that he was not privy to how Mrs Aquino selected her Senate slate.

Gonzales also revealed that Solicitor General Sedfrey Ordonez will replace him as justice secretary in concurrent capacity until President Aquino appoints a new solicitor general.

The outgoing justice secretary also said the government may work for the removal of the American military bases while the Mutual Defense Treaty and the Military Bases Agreement are being negotiated next year. He, however, noted that the renegotiation of the two pacts, which expire in 1991, will be determined by the new Congress. He said that the stand of the Aquino Government on the military bases "is now contained in the 1986 Constitution" and that the presence of the U.S. bases will be respected. However, he said that if "we will renegotiate the two pacts, that will also be the time that we will work for the dismantling of the bases." He added that the presence of

the military bases in the country will depend on the international condition and the requirements for national security of the country.

Gonzales told newsmen that cases against Americans violating Philippine laws will be investigated if formal complaints are filed with his office. He said the Philippines has jurisdiction over cases involving U.S. servicemen because Clark and Subic are legally Philippine bases housing American facilities.

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PHILIPPINES

AQUINO'S SENATORIAL TEAM SET TO START CAMPAIGN

HK241337 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 24 Feb 87 p 24

[Text] President Corazon C. Aquino's senatorial candidates are scheduled to start their political campaign for the 11 May congressional election in Batangas City on 9 March, Malacanang sources said yesterday.

They said launching the political campaign in Batangas city was agreed upon because President Aquino and Vice President Salvador H. Laurel, began their campaign for the snap presidential election last year in that city.

Malacanang sources said the President met with her senatorial choices at Malacanang to map out the administration's campaign platform and strategy.

In yesterday's preliminary meeting a committee, composed of Presidential Commission on Good Government Chairman Jovito Salonga, University of the Philippines President Edgardo J. Angara, Lyceum University, President Sotero Laurel, and Ex-Senator Raul Manglapus, was formed to draft a platform for the "Cory candidates."

A coordinating council, composed of Manuel Malvar, of the United Nationalist Democratic Organization (UNIDO), Paul Aquino of the Lakas ng Bansa, [People's Power] Raul Daza of the Liberal Party-Salonga wing, Mar Canonigo of Bandila and Ex-Congressman Jose Yap of the Pilipino Democratic Party, was formed to prepare a campaign strategy for the team.

Senatorial candidate John Osmena said one suggestion was for the 24 candidates to group into four teams with each team consisting of six candidates.

Salonga suggested the adoption of the platform used by President Aquino and Laurel when they ran in the presidential election last year.

The ruling coalition also discussed in the meeting the adoption of a party name.

Candidate Aquilino Pimentel Jr. suggested that the group adopt the name, Core. He said Core stands for people's coalition for reconciliation, justice and peace.

"It is a coalition," said Pimentel, "because the slate is comprised of candidates from six parties and a group of nonpartisan individuals."

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BULLETIN VIEWS PUBLIC REACTION TO AQUINO TICKET

HK231327 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 23 Feb 87 pp 1, 14

[By Nick T. Enciso]

[Text] The administration's senatorial slate, drawn from lists submitted by political parties and groups supporting President Aquino, has evoked mixed public reactions.

Generally, the slate was perceived to be a well-balanced lineup, but many believed that some of those included need more experience in government service and political prestige to occupy a seat in the highest legislative body of the government. They think that the President should still wage serious campaigning for a satisfactory showing of the slate.

Unlike candidates for seats in the lower house who must show more personal attachment to the electorate in the congressional districts in order to win, those campaign for the Senate, it is said, require national involvement.

To be more effective, new faces in national politics should cover more areas, especially in the countryside where they are not known. They might lose to the opposition's seasoned politicians and prestigious personalities.

Observers claim that the opposition can have good issue in the hustings by pursuing the line that for full democracy to begin in government, the executive must be checked of abuses by an opposition or independent-minded congress.

Candidates seeking to summon the widest local support to their campaign will also have to contend with the controversy involving the appointment of officers-in-charge (OICS). In a particular area, for example, the election of one leader as OIC may render partymates aspiring for the same job dissatisfied, thus narrowing a candidate's base of party support.

One redeeming factor however, is the President's role in the campaign trail. The administration candidate's chances of winning can improve immensely with her popularity.

The overwhelming endorsement of the new constitution cannot be fully relied upon by the administration's bets as a clincher for victory. The "yes" votes

were not only expressed by the people for their love to President Aquino but also they [words indistinct] for clean election. Even traditional politicians, particularly those relieved from their positions where they had been elected, worked hard for the ratification in order to give them a chance to return to power through an election.

The President's appeal to influential citizens to work for her candidates could still do wonders. Her Charisma could sway the non-partisan votes to their favor. Church support for Mrs Aquino could muster pro-administration votes among Catholics. On the other hand, the opposition may have a difficult time as it is perceived as the vestige of the Marcos regime.

While the Iglesia ni cristo backed the ratification of the new charter, this does not mean that the religious sect had parted ways with Marcos "loyalists." Traditionally, however, it has supported the stronger candidates.

Local media reports this early indicate that Northern Luzon (regions 1 and 2) will vote for the opposition although this could be neutralized with the inclusion in the administration slate of former Senator Ernesto Maceda, head of the Lakas ng Bansa [People's Power] who comes from the North.

In La Union, where former Tourism Minister Jose Aspiras and former Congressman Joaquin Ortega are still strong as shown by the "No" victory during the plebiscite, Maceda and former Congressman Jose Cojuangco, PDP-Laban [Pilipino Democratic Party-Lakas ng Bayan] president, are now moving to head off the opposition advantage.

In Southern Tagalog, some opposition bets may win. An apparent administration back-lash is the selection of two senatorial bets from the region.

In Bicol, administration bet, former Congressman Victor Ziga, is an asset. His mother, former Senator Tecla Ziga, is from vote-rich Camarines Sur while his father, former Governor and Assemblyman Vinancio Ziga, is from Albay.

In Mindanao, the nomination of former Senator Mamintal Tamano appears to be well-received by almost all quarters, but Santanina Rasul of Sulu, according to observers "needs to campaign extensively even in that region." Queries still persist on why the other Mindanao regions (9, 8 and 11) were not represented in the slate.

In the Visayas, the administration will have better chances because many traditional political leaders, headed by former Vice President Fernando Lopez, who are its supporters, are again active.

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CSO: 4200/356

AQUINO SPONSORSHIP OF CANDIDATES CRITICIZED

HK251131 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 25 Feb 87 p 4

["My Cup of Tea" column by Ninez Cacho-Olivares: "The Same Old Path"]

[Text] A little over a year, the nation went to the polls to elect its president. There were only two choices--Marcos, then the incumbent President, and Aquino, the housewife challenger. The Marcos adds focused on his leadership experience and the inexperience of the challenger. Marcos brought out his ongoing program of government and challenged the opposition to bare its program.

I think most everybody knew that the opposition had no concrete program of government at that particular time, but most everybody seemed to have forgiven the opposition for not having such a program. What many people wanted at the time was to oust Marcos through the ballot, and Mrs Aquino was their best bet. A lot of things have happened since then. Marcos was ousted by the people through a four-day uprising, and Mrs Corazon Aquino, housewife whose campaign focused on sincerity, went on to become President.

The then opposition was splintered and came together mainly for one reason: to win by ousting Marcos through an electoral battle. But in the end, it was not the united opposition parties that made possible the ascendancy of Mrs Aquino. It was the people who rose as one against Marcos to install her as their President.

Mrs Aquino was, in reality, partyless. She was not identified with Unido [United Nationalist Democratic Organization], and yet she ran under the Unido banner. She was not quite identified with the other opposition parties, like the PDP-Laban [Partido Demokratiko ng Pilipinas--Lakas ng Bayan--Pilipino Democratic Party--People's Power]. She was somehow more identified with the so-called cause-oriented groups, but as almost everybody knew, these groups had not formed themselves into political parties.

Because she was partyless, Mrs Aquino had to rely on various political parties and groups to form a coalition. There was at the start, a problem, but it still was a problem that could easily be resolved. Because of such a coalition, she had to distribute choice portfolios, and government posts to representatives of various political parties. Thus, her government had a PDP stalwart as a local governments minister, Unido people as the foreign affairs

and transportation ministers, Convenor Group people as finance and health ministers, a Liberal Party leader as PCGG [Presidential Commission on Good Government], chairman and a cause-oriented group leader as human rights commissioner.

Senatorial and congressional elections are coming up and President Aquino has chosen to remain partyless. What she did, however, was to anoint 24 senatorial candidates who obviously will not be running under a particular party banner. One may be a PDP-Laban member, but he will run as "Cory's candidate." Another may belong to the Unido, but, like the PDP candidate, he will simply be known as another "Cory candidate." If the reports are accurate, these Cory-anointed candidates will run under a brand new "political party called Core, that is, if the suggestion of Cory candidates Aquilino Pimentel is adopted. Core, the media were informed, stands for People's Coalition for Reconciliation, Justice and Peace. But we all know that Core is the catchword that will easily identify the candidates as Cory anointees.

So these are the Cory anointees. So what? What do they stand for? What program of government are they advocating? Do we, the Filipino people, elect these men and women simply because they have been handpicked by President Aquino? Does it naturally follow that these men and women are going to be good public servants and efficient representatives of the people simply because they have been anointed by President Aquino? And why does Mrs Aquino feel she must handpick the senatorial and even congressional candidates and make them run as her candidates? Who are they supposed to serve, the people or Mrs Aquino?

If they bend over backwards to please Mrs Aquino, to continue to have her blessings, then obviously, the interests of the President will be served before the interests of the nation. This can be dangerous. The President may be popular, but we may just end up with a rubber stamp Senate. Is this what we want? Is this what the nation needs?

What the nation needs, in both the Senate and the lower House, are fiscalizers and oppositionists. This is what we did not have under the Marcos regime. We resented it very much when the Batasan transformed itself into a Marcos rubber stamp. And the Batasan became a rubber stamp mainly because it was staffed by a majority of Marcos men and women. We didn't like it when Marcos handpicked candidates and anointed them.

Why then, do we seem to be going the same way as Marcos? If it was wrong under the Marcos regime, why should it suddenly be right, simply because we are now under the Aquino regime?

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EDITORIAL URGES FIREARMS BAN DURING ELECTIONS

HK231407 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 23 Feb 87 p 6

[Editorial: "Agreement on Firearms Ban"]

[Text] President Aquino can call all political parties to a meeting to agree on a total ban on firearms as suggested by General Fidel V Ramos. We are sure her popularity will produce the desired result. In any case, something ought to be done to ban firearms during the election campaign in order to reduce violence arising from partisan rivalries.

Not that we expect the next polls to be bloody ones. The time honored observation is that violence is heaviest during local elections because the local candidates are the least capable of restraint. Violence tends to decrease as the positions at stake become more important.

Yet, Gen Ramos has reasons to be apprehensive. There are many indications that the number of loose firearms has increased in the last few years. Gunrunning is still prevalent and there are many methods of smuggling in prohibited weapons. Moreover, Filipinos continue to be fascinated by guns, as may be judged from the big number of fancy ones detected at the ports of entry.

Gen Ramos has been in the forefront of the campaign against loose firearms in the last few years. However, it seems that the effort has lacked the cooperation of the citizenry and government officials. In most communities, the joke is only a fool would surrender his gun to the authorities.

Some favorable effects may be expected from the fact that lately government officials have not been condoning the illegal possession of guns. Official attitude has much to do with the acquisition and possession of prohibited weapons.

It is hoped the coming elections will be relatively free from violence. Philippine claim to democracy will be vitiated by widespread violence.

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CSO: 4200/356

PHILIPPINES

GENERAL ON LOYALIST PLANS, ACTIVITIES

HK251117 Manila THE MANILA TIMES in English 25 Feb 87 pp 1, 6

[Text] An Armed Forces general disclosed yesterday that the so-called Marcos loyalists are expecting P300 million to support their new attempt to topple the Aquino Government.

The general, who requested anonymity, said based on intelligence reports being monitored by his office, a former businessman and Marcos associate who allegedly supported the 27 January abortive coup pledged to send in P300 million to support a more "tactful and less bloodless campaign" to discredit the Aquino Government.

The general said after the latest coup plot was foiled and the much-ballyhooed return of deposed President Marcos did not materialize last January, the Marcos loyalist leadership decided instead to put up a political struggle by fielding candidates in the senatorial and congressional elections in May and use the promised P300 million in the campaign.

He also said the pro-Marcos candidates will use their resources to try to win seats in the House and the Senate after which they would initiate impeachment proceedings against President Aquino.

He added that even if the pro-Marcos forces manage to win only a minority membership in the Senate and the Congress, they will attempt to block all the bills presented by the administration legislators.

The general said the Marcos loyalists, who decided to put up a parliamentary struggle, will also have to contend themselves with legitimate opposition candidates who refuse to include them in their senatorial slate.

The general said although plans of a military coup have been temporarily shelved, the military is still on alert for any possible trouble the Marcos loyalists may cause to disrupt the first anniversary celebration today of the victory of the February Revolution on EDSA. [Epifanio de Los Santos Avenue]

The general added that the military is also watching the activities of the National Democratic Front (NDF) and the New People's Army (NPA). He also predicted an escalation of violence in the countryside to coincide with the celebration of the "people power" revolution.

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PHILIPPINES

TOLENTINO ON MARCOS RETURN FROM EXILE

BK241727 Hong Kong AFP in English 1720 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Manila, 24 February (AFP)--Arturo Tolentino, the would-be vice president of Ferdinand Marcos, said Tuesday that the exiled strongman should be allowed to return to the Philippines as a private citizen but not to reclaim the Presidency.

Mr Marcos, 69, fled to Hawaii following a popular uprising which drove him from 20 years of power and installed his election rival Corazon Aquino to the Presidency a year ago Wednesday.

"If he considers (himself) still as president of the Philippines, I think it would not be advisable for him to return at least at this moment because that may trigger some kind of disorder here in this country," Mr Tolentino said during a local television talk show. "But if Mr Marcos has given up the idea of power and is going to return as a plain citizen, I think he should be allowed to return," said the 75 year old Mr Tolentino, Mr Marcos' running-mate in the February 1986 presidential elections.

Philippine and U.S. authorities said they foiled an attempt by Mr Marcos to return to Manila last month during a pro-Marcos military uprising which was crushed by the government.

The Aquino Government, which is going after Mr Marcos' alleged ill-gotten wealth, has barred the former ruler from returning to this country, saying his presence might cause instability.

Mr Tolentino, who had himself proclaimed acting president in a failed coup in July and who campaigned against the ratification of the new Philippine Constitution, said he was joining the race for the 24 senatorial seats on 11 May.

"Definitely I'm going to run for Senator," Mr Marcos' former foreign minister said. "We need opposition (men) in the Senate."

Also at stake in the pools are 250 seats in the House of Representatives.

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CSO: 4200/356

PHILIPPINES

ENRILE VOWS 'TO COOPERATE' IF ELECTED TO CONGRESS

HK020429 Hong Kong AFP in English 0417 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] Manila, 2 March (AFP)--Opposition leader Juan Ponce Enrile Monday vowed to cooperate with President Corazon Aquino if elected to the new Philippine Congress in May.

"If we stop recriminating, fault-finding and accusing each other, maybe it would be a better starting point," he said at a forum of candidates for the U.S.-style Congress, Manila's first freewheeling legislature in 15 years.

He has not stated whether he would run for the 24-seat Senate or the 250-seat House of Representatives. The Senate is to be elected nationally and the House, which many politicians consider more influential, by districts.

"We must now look positively towards the future, harness the best minds of our people to go to the lawmaking body in order to help President Aquino fashion programs of government," said the former Defense Minister.

Mr Enrile, who has toned down his attacks on Mrs Aquino in recent weeks, led the February 1986 revolt that toppled strongman Ferdinand Marcos, [words indistinct] from the Aquino cabinet later on suspicion of involvement in a coup plot.

He again denied involvement in any attempt to destabilize the Aquino Government and said "it was precisely our awareness of the errors of the system" that prompted him to fight Mr Marcos after serving him for 20 years. He said Filipinos should now consider Marcos "history," stop blaming him for the country's problems, and look positively towards the future.

Another opposition leader, Aguedo Agbayani, told the forum that they will be a "loyal opposition" if elected to the Congress, but reiterated opposition demands for certain electoral reforms.

Mr Marcos abolished Congress when he imposed martial law in 1972 and six years later set up a National Assembly which was dominated by his allies, and passed far less laws than the hundreds of decrees he issued.

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CSO: 4200/356

ENRILE URGES UNITY IN MILITARY ON ANNIVERSARY

HK231135 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 23 Feb 87 p 19

[Text] Former Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday called on disunited elements within the Armed Forces of the Philippines to discard their differences and work together as "true soldiers of the Republic, ready if necessary, to lay down your lives for the sake of the country."

Enrile, who was ousted from his post in November last year following reports that military elements close to him were poised to launch a coup attempt against the government, also expressed confidence that "someday, history will write a true recollection of what really happened during those four fateful days in February last year."

He explained that this is important if only to assure the Filipinos that "never again shall there be a regime that was in this country."

Enrile made these remarks during a brief message he delivered yesterday before the tomb of the late Colonel Tirso Gador, a hero of the EDSA [epifanio de los santos avenue] revolution, at the Libingan ng mga bayani in Fort Bonifacio.

Enrile declined last week to participate in the government and Armed Forces-arranged four-day celebration of the first anniversary of the February revolution.

Yesterday, he elected instead to honor the soldiers who died during the EDSA revolt at the Libingan ng mga bayani, together with his political supporters, selected military officers and friends.

Shortly before the ceremonies, however, Armed Forces chief-of-staff General Fidel V Ramos, made a surprise appearance and gave brief remarks for the occasion.

"We feel that it is necessary for us in the military organization who were at EDSA last February, to gather once again here at the Libingan ng mga bayani no longer as combatants, but as brothers," Enrile said. "We are here right now unlabeled as loyalist or reformist, but as one people, working together as brothers and sisters, reliving once again as we had during those four fateful days in February last year that we are all Filipinos," he added.

Enrile pointed out that the events which led to the toppling of the Marcos government last year "were not undertaken by the people responsible for it for power, recognition, or glory." "Rather we acted as we did on 22 February because of what we perceived as either faithful commitment to our duty to this country," he said. [sentence as published]

Enrile said "those of us who fought in that revolution thought its true essence was really for change and reconciliation in the land." "Hopefully, by commemorating the events during those four historic days, we may rekindle that same spirit of revolution which is based on the stability and [words indistinct]," he said.

Earlier, Ramos said the February "people power" revolution last year "ushered in a new democratic atmosphere" for the nation. To get the same revolution, however, "spawned serious challenges to our national security and stability."

Ramos pointed this out yesterday as he called on the military to be more vigilant in performing its "unique role of helping to reinforce the foundations of our newfound democracy."

Ramos made this exhortation in a brief message he delivered in yesterday's wreath-laying ceremonies at the Libingan ng mga bayani in Fort Bonifacio.

The ceremonies high-lighted the start of the four-day celebration of the first anniversary of the February revolution.

Ramos is one of the acknowledged heroes of that revolution which was triggered by the breakaway from the Marcos government of a reformist group in the defense-military establishment led by then Defense Minister Enrile.

Ramos did not specify the "serious challenges" faced by the nation now, but he was apparently referring particularly to the threat posed by the communist insurgents, the Muslim secessionist rebels and the right-wing extremist among Marcos loyalists, who are reportedly trying again to grab power.

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CSO: 4200/356

ENRILE URGES AQUINO TO ADHERE TO CHARTER NUCLEAR BAN

HK210737 Quezon City ANG PAHAYANGANG MALAYA in English 21 Feb 87 p 3

[Text] Former Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile said yesterday the nuclear-free provision of the Constitution has rendered the two U.S. military bases here ineffective. He said the Aquino Government could not invoke the phrase "consistent with its national interest" in the provision to allow entry of nuclear-powered vessels and nuclear weapons-carrying aircraft.

Enrile, an opponent of the nuclear-free provision, said the government should adhere to the Charter prohibition even as he said the ban could alienate the Philippines from the United States.

"Any nuclear-powered carrier like the USS Enterprise or any aircraft carrying missiles may fall under the prohibition," Enrile said.

Section 8 of Article 2 of the new Constitution provides that "the Philippines, consistent with its national interest, adopts and pursues a policy of freedom from nuclear weapons in its territories."

Enrile said the nuclear-free provision "appears to be an absolute prohibition." It is a "statement of policy" of the Filipino people and beyond the revision of Congress or the President.

Enrile also said the clause "consistent with the national interest" is an antecedent of the declared state policy and thus could not be interpreted as an exception to it.

Enrile, dismissed from the Cabinet last November, also said he recalled that President Aquino had adopted an anti-nuclear policy when she authorized the dismantling of the nuclear plant in Bataan. "She cannot now take a different position by allowing nuclear weapons in the Philippines," Enrile said. He added that "this interpretation is supported by a telephone conversation between President Aquino and Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo."

Enrile was referring to the conversation between President Aquino and Arroyo while the Constitutional Commission was deliberating on the bases issue. A tape of that conversation was exposed by former MP Homobono A Adaza last January.

the tape catches Arroyo saying "the provision negates the bases (because the Americans will not care to...maintain those bases (Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base] if there are no nuclear weapons," and Mrs Aquino replying "correct."

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CSO: 4200/356

COLUMNIST ANALYZES RAMOS REMARKS ON MILITARY ISSUES

HK271347 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 27 Feb 87 pp 1, 2

["Analysis" column by Editor-in-Chief Amando Doronilla: "New Strain in Military, Government Ties"]

[Text] The fragile relationship between the Aquino Government and the military establishment took on new tensions yesterday on the heels of the mammoth demonstration of People Power in support of President Aquino the day before at EDSA [Epifanio de los santos avenue].

Yesterday, the Armed Forces chief of staff, General Fidel Ramos, in his strongest criticism yet of the Aquino Government, warned that the President's popularity alone was not enough to defeat the communist insurgency.

"There are many people, including some Government authorities, who do not really understand the insurgency problem," Ramos said in a speech to a Rotary Club at the Manila Hotel. "Most of them would argue that 'People Power' would solve the insurgency problem and that the (rebels) would eventually lay down their arms and participate with the people in the task of nation-building," he said.

Describing this view as a "dangerous half-truth and an illusion," Ramos urged the Government to formulate a comprehensive program to combat insurgency. He said such a comprehensive strategy should consist of "social, economic, political and military measures fused into one integrated political weapon."

It is significant that the Ramos speech followed swiftly President Aquino's speech to the soldiers at the EDSA flag-raising ceremony on Wednesday in which she said that "so long as you are responsible to the will of the people, the people will rally to you as they did last year."

This is not to say that Gen Ramos, in deploring the lack of a comprehensive approach to insurgency, is now challenging the legitimacy of the Government or is trying to wrench the military away from constitutional authority, especially after the ratification of the new Constitution.

It is possible that Ramos' criticism is an attempt to reassert his leadership in and control of the Armed Forces at a time when some elements in the military are criticizing him as "weak and vacillating." The points made by

Ramos basically repeat earlier assessments made by the military, only that they are being put more emphatically this time. The Ramos assessment articulates the corporate interests of the military vis-a-vis the civil government, and in this sense, Ramos is asserting himself as a vigorous spokesman of military interests. Ramos is apparently trying to recover lost ground in his own constituency.

The military, of course, cannot ignore the continuing vast popularity of the President, the latest evidence of which was the People Power manifestation at Edsa on Wednesday, following the massive mandate received by the Government in the ratification of the Constitution.

In all calculations of power balance and plots to seize power, popular support is the most important variable. For even if a power seizure is successful in a tactical sense, no military junta can last long without popular support.

But the Government cannot afford also to ignore the point made by Ramos that People Power alone can solve the insurgency problem, as well as any other problem. People Power is an expression of support and of the popularity of the President. But this support could easily dissipate if the Government does not translate its mandate into a comprehensive and integrated program--which it does not have at the moment.

Such a program is the formula with which the Government could address effectively the problems of poverty, job creation and equitable sharing of wealth and benefits of development. It is the prescription for the continuation of mobilization of People Power behind it.

So long as People Power is behind this Government, it has a powerful deterrent against possible military coups. The task of Government, therefore, is to see to it that People Power remains intact and solidly ranged behind it. The dissolution of People Power arising from unfulfilled popular expectations is a recipe for instability, regardless of the installation of a Constitution which mandates the supremacy of civil authority over the military.

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CSO: 4200/356

COLUMNIST ON RAMOS' 'CANDOR', MILITARY VIEWPOINT

HK280825 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 28 Feb 87 p 9

["On the Contrary" column by Petronilo Bn. Daroy: "Ramos Proposal Reverts to Martial Rule"]

[Text] The speech of General Fidel V. Ramos before the Rotary Club of Manila in which he criticized "some officials" of the civilian Government for their lack of appreciation of the insurgency problem is notable for its felicitous combination of insight and military dogma. Gen Ramos is to be commended for his candor. It is this candor which allows [word indistinct] and the military viewpoint and enables us to realize why the military and the civilian Government cannot have a common perspective of the national problems.

Gen Ramos may be correct in his assessment of the CPP-NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army] and its bid for seizure of power. His prescription for how to frustrate the intention of this armed movement, however, would in effect align the civilian Government behind the military and turn the entire Government machinery into a monolithic vehicle for counter-insurgency in which the main concern is victory and the task of Government only incidental. The failure of the Government so far to align itself behind this viewpoint has been the basis of the military's allegation that the Aquino Administration is being "soft with the insurgents."

The insurgency problem, as General Ramos perceives it, is "a total war being waged by the CPP." "It should be viewed," he told the Rotarians, "as a struggle by both the Government and the CPP for the entire Filipino nation, including its people, its economy and its Government. Only recognizing (sic) this important fact will the Government be able to develop a comprehensive response to the problem involving the full range of military and civil programs to strengthen the entire structure of the country and to win the people to the Government side." (Underscoring General Ramos'.)

The "comprehensive response" would appear at first glance, to be workable within a democratic framework. It appears to reject a purely military solution to the insurgency problem.

But while the purely military solution is purportedly rejected, the Government is asked to adjust itself to the comprehensive military viewpoint and

transform itself into an authoritarian institution through an alignment of its political perspective to winning the war against the insurgents.

Primarily, this alignment of perspective entails the recognition of harsh military and police measures against the enemy and the acceptance of the implication that such military and police action will affect the civilian population. To achieve this also means adjusting priorities and committing resources (budgetary) to the insurgency drive.

On improvement of the national security program, General Ramos suggests two tasks: "The first is the active search and destruction of the NPA guerrillas in the field." The second, in the words of General Ramos himself, "is far more demanding," involving as it does the "denial of NPA guerrilla forces' access to the population, particularly in the rural areas." More specifically, this requires the acceptance of such measures as hamletting, relocation of civilian rural population, establishment of food blockades, and the corresponding consequence that those who will refuse to be relocated may have to be executed as NPA sympathizers.

Concomitant with these military and police measures, Gen Ramos emphasized, by underlining the paragraph in his speech, arming the people or sectors of the population to assist in the fight against insurgency: "Unless the people can defend themselves or be protected, they cannot be expected to cooperate with the Government, in spite of their loyalty...if the presence of the CPP gun is more prevalent than that of the Government."

In short, while General Ramos' program rejects a purely military solution, it requires the Government to accept a policy of full militarization.

On the other hand, proscription of civil liberties may have to be undertaken, as the Government is to regard strikes, lockouts, demonstrations, and "other civil disturbances" as part of the CPP-NPA mobilizations. The Government must also adopt a program to "keep dissent at a low key."

In other words, the country has to be turned into a garrison state, and the Government to revert to a smiling dictatorship. Gen Ramos did not suggest this directly, but the measures he endorsed will have the same effect as those adopted by the Marcos regime.

To counter this perception, "the Government must also mount an extensive information campaign...past Government programs were viewed as merely an effort to react to the propaganda offensives of the CPP. To be fully effective, the Government information program should be more than that..." It should convince the people of "the feasibility and advantage of winning the long term struggle to develop the nation and improve their welfare..." (Underscoring Gen Ramos'). Curiously, while the Ramos proposal mentions "reforms" as a component, at the same time it views reforms, particularly land reform, as "an expensive program and will require the taking away of privilege or property or both, from those holding them." What happens now to Gen Ramos' endorsement of the military demand to have Hacienda Luisita dismantled?

In place of "expensive" reform programs, Gen Ramos proposes neighborhood projects in slum areas in the urban centers and in the Barangag, "small changes that can improve their (the people's) lot." We are immediately reminded, of course, of Imelda Marcos' backyard gardens and the raising of malunggay [horseradish trees] on a large scale after it was shown to have fattened the goats in Africa.

On the whole, the proposal endorses a government analogous to the Marcos dictatorship, without Ferdinand Marcos. This has become the fixed viewpoint of the military, a viewpoint which has consistently run against the democratization thrust of the present dispensation.

The question may now be asked: If Ramos agrees in principle with the cardinal postulates of Marcos rule, why was he uncomfortable with it?

General Ramos was among the most professional ranking military officers in the Marcos administration. The opposition perceived this, as well [words indistinct] integrity and his gentlemanly conduct. A few times the opposition hoped this professionalism would manifest itself in an objective regard for the valued cause of civil rights. Ramos maintained his silence. It was in clear disregard of fairness, therefore, that Marcos by-passed him in promotions and did not repose his confidence in General Ramos. He was the most qualified officer to head the military, but Marcos thought him "indecisive and vacillating" and preferred General Fabian Ver. It was this unfair and unjust treatment that drove Ramos to cast his lot with the RAM [Reform the Armed Forces Movement] boys and Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile when they declared their rebellion to protect themselves from the arrest orders of Marcos.

Gen Ramos has never gone on record as having disagreed with the authoritarian and dictatorial policies of Marcos.

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CSO: 4200/356

PHILIPPINES

MILITARY OCCUPIES LAOAG AIRPORT FOR 'TRAINING'

HK261301 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 26 Feb 87 p 3

[By Juliet Pascual]

[Text] Laoag City--The Laoag International Airport (LIA), which was closed to all aircraft last Monday, has been virtually turned into a military camp.

Government troopers from the Army's 50th Infantry Battalion and the 3/5 Brigade have taken over the multimillion facility and entry of civilians has been prohibited.

A CHRONICLE team who went there to check following complaints from air passengers found a row of tents along the airport's runway while dumptrucks were parked on the runway.

The Philippine Airlines had reportedly cancelled all its flights to Laoag after the military took over the facility last Monday.

Local radio stations in this city, quoting a military officer, said the troops are undergoing a Scout Rangers' training.

The airport's departure and arrival areas were transformed into military barracks while soldiers were seen sleeping at the airport terminal.

Two Air Force helicopter gunships were also seen on standby near the rows of tent while the control tower was transferred into a command post of the military mini-camp.

There are about 200 soldiers in the area but they refused to say why they were there or who ordered them to go there.

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CSO: 4200/356

PHILIPPINES

ACADEMIC SAYS ISRAEL 'U.S. PROXY' IN COUNTERINSURGENCY

HK270845 Hong Kong AFP in English 0836 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Manila, 27 February (AFP)--Israel is increasing its involvement in Philippine counter-insurgency efforts as a proxy of the U.S. Government, a Filipino political scientist and author said here Friday.

Professor Rolando Simbulan of the state-run University of the Philippines, said Israel was supplying weapons and training to the Philippine Armed Forces, paramilitary groups and "warlord armies" to lessen the U.S. burden here.

The Israeli Embassy in Manila declined to comment.

Mr Simbulan, a spokesman for a leftist organisation opposed to having U.S. bases here, cited as evidence the many Israeli-made firearms purchased by the Philippine Government, saying that Israeli arms exporters provided training to Filipino soldiers as part of the sale of the weapons. He also said that deposed strongman Ferdinand Marcos had allowed Israelis to train his bodyguard units and to supply them with weapons and equipment.

Mr Simbulan, considered an authority on the U.S. military presence here, said he was disturbed by local press reports that an Israeli team had done a preliminary study on plans to set up kibbutz-style agricultural cooperatives for communist rebels who surrender, and for depressed rural areas.

He charged that the Israelis had implemented a harsh counter-insurgency operation in Guatemala during the regime of President Rios Mont, under the guise of developing such kibbutz-style agricultural cooperatives.

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CSO: 4200/356

ARMY CRITICIZED FOR OVERZEALOUSNESS

HK201311 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 20 Feb 87 p 28

[By Reporter Abrino Aydinan]

[Text] Political analysts are inclined to say the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] lacks weapons with which to fight anti-government insurgents. But in light of recent developments, the AFP's problem seems not so much being unprepared for war as being ill-equipped to cope with peace and democracy, they said.

The first tactical offensive of the AFP, after the lapse of the 60-day ceasefire with the National Democratic Front (NDF), ended in a disaster with an officer plus 17 civilians slain. And the military's image of new-found responsibility battered.

Unlike in the preceding post-ceasefire engagements with the New People's Army units, the AFP took the initiative in the Lupao, Nueva Ecija skirmish.

Facts emerging after the incident invariably point to the civilian casualties being victims of alleged brazen execution by the 14th Infantry Brigade detachment of the Philippine Army at a Lupao barangay.

Testimonies of survivors tell of government troopers apparently going berserk over the death of a platoon leader Lieutenant Edgardo Dizon. After the battle with the insurgents who apparently escaped with no dead comrades, the troopers reportedly collected civilians who were "executed." Elderly persons and children were killed too.

A report by Nueva Ecija Governor Emmanuel Santos blamed directly government soldiers for the massacre.

Lupao gives a disturbing picture of the government soldiers' state of mind: all psyched up to see the enemy not only in the persons of the armed rebels but also in the unarmed civilian population among which the NPA moves, analysts claimed.

The villagers of Namulandayan would be foes to the Armed Forces because military intelligence had classified them as a "mass base" of the NPA.

Early newspaper reports on the incident based on the military account had described the Armed Forces-NPA battle as happening in a rebel mass base.

That the rebels were encountered as they were being sheltered by the Namulandayan villagers would have left no doubt in the minds of the government troopers about the correctness of lumping rebels and civilians together.

National Defense Secretary Rafael Ilete's dismissal of the Lupao massacre after public outcry was raised was on a subtler level, analysts said. He blamed the NDF's refusal to continue peace talks with the government for the civilian deaths, and said as the war with the rebels goes on, non-combatants are liable to be caught in the crossfire.

The Lupao incident happened as a Malacanang-organized citizens' probe body was investigating the death and injury of over a hundred demonstrators demanding government implementation of a "genuine" land reform program.

The death and wounding of demonstrators happened after shooting erupted as the protesting citizens tried to cross the Mendiola Bridge approach to the presidential palace last 22 January.

The statements issued by the military establishment immediately after the incident now dubbed the "Mendiola massacre" tended to accuse the NDF of provoking political disorder in an effort to scuttle the then coming plebiscite on the Constitution.

While this was supposed to minimize the culpability of the government, it did not, however, explain how the NDF could have programmed the death of at least 15 demonstrators and wounding of over 90 others.

The theory would at best show government troopers knowingly cooperating with the NDF in a sinister plan to kill citizens.

Various government spokesmen have since been talking of "infiltrators" into government troopers' ranks and those of the demonstrators.

On the heels of the Mendiola incident was another incident where Philippine Army soldiers fired at picketing workers and supporters outside the premises of the Bataan Export Processing Zone in an effort to disperse the strikers.

The dispersal operation was successful but at the cost of at least two persons, including a boy in the residential area directly on the lines of fire of the soldiers.

Bullet marks in windows, walls, doors, and fences of homes in the area would testify to the zeal with which the government troops pursued the picketers' dispersal with gunfire.

Emerging from a long period when it reigned supreme as the mainstay of former President Ferdinand Marcos's dictatorship, the Armed Forces is now confronted with the perhaps difficult requirements of democracy, analysts said.

As its record of numerous blatant disregard of the sanctity of human lives during the long, dark rule of Marcos would show, the Armed Forces was not much concerned with such nuances of politics as where the defense of state security ends and the inviolability of human rights begins.

Another subtlety that was the last of the Armed Forces worry was the supremacy of civilian over military authority as Marcos was the unquestioned commander-in-chief and absolute political ruler rolled into one.

The more pressing challenge to the NAFFP (New Armed Forces of the Philippines) today would seem to be to show its capacity for unqualified respect for human rights and for civilian authority.

If the current government is constructing its strategy for "defending democracy" and defeating communism along the lines of the late President Ramon Magsaysay's--as ample signs indicate--it is missing out on the lessons.

As Defense Chief, Magsaysay put the Armed Forces' discipline on a tight rein and he would not be heard blaming atrocities committed by the government troops on the other side.

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CSO: 4200/356

KMP TO BRING MENDIOLA MASSACRE TO UN BODY

HK231255 Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 23 Feb 87 p 7

[By Cooper Resabal]

[Text] Baguio city--The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Philipinas [KMP-Peasant Movement of the Philippines] plans to bring the Mendiola massacre of 18 demonstrators by military troopers last month to the attention of the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

Felicitissimo Patayan, KMP national vice chairman, told MALAYA Sunday the peasants' organization will seek the aid of the UN body to get justice for the rallyists killed last 22 January.

Other cases of human rights violation like the assassination of former Senator Benigno Aquino Jr.; the Escalante massacre; the killing of Rollando Olalia, Kilusang Mayo Uno and Partido ng Bayan head, and the recent shooting of striking workers at the Bataan export processing zone will be brought to the UN body, Patayan said.

Addressing about 100 delegates to the first congress, Patayan deplored what he called the Mendiola commission's "attempt to turn a blind eye on the culprits of the bloody incident." The victims were even made to appear as the culprits, he said.

The troopers were made to look "immaculate" while those who were seeking justice were left defenseless, the KMP official said.

Meanwhile, representatives of various farmers' groups in the Cordilleras expressed their readiness to defend their ancestral lands from those who encroach on the ethnic people's rights.

In a resolution, they urged the setting up of full genuine regional autonomy for the Cordilleras instead of an interim one. They said a provision in the newly ratified Constitution stipulates the formation of autonomous regions.

The farmers said the decision to determine the kind of autonomous region must be left to the Cordillera people, most of whom are farmers, and not a handful of politicians and other prominent people.

Genuine socio-economic development, they said, can only be achieved with the recognition of the ancestral land rights of the population, the repeal of repressive decrees and the provision of enough social services by the government to support agricultural development.

MEMBERS CLAIM PCHR CANNOT PROBE REBEL ABUSES

HK201337 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 20 Feb 87 pp 1, 5

[By Staffmember Marites Sison]

[Text] Members of the Presidential Committee on Human Rights (PCHR) said yesterday they will stand by their position that the PCHR cannot investigate alleged human rights violations committed by rebels since the basic requirement of due process of law cannot be adhered to in such cases.

PCHR members reacted to an announcement by President Aquino Wednesday that the committee has been transformed into a commission and as such could investigate alleged abuses of both soldiers and rebels.

PCHR member Nini Quezon-Avancena said Mrs Aquino's announcement came as a "total surprise," adding that the committee was not consulted.

The PCHR has not been formally informed about the decision by Malacanang. As of yesterday it was still trying to get in touch with Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo.

"Nagulat kaming talaga. [We were really shocked.] We were made to understand before that the job of investigating alleged NPA atrocities was not going to be given to us," Avancena said.

Last year, in an interview with the CHRONICLE, PCHR acting Chairman Jose "JBL" Reyes said the President had assured the committee that it was not going to give the job of investigating rebel abuses but that she would create a separate committee to handle such cases. The investigation of alleged NPA atrocities has been one of the "persistent" demands of the Armed Forces, Reyes had said.

In a letter to the President last year, the PCHR said that it cannot, under present circumstances, get evidence from the rebels' side because "they are liable to be shot on sight or subjected to reprisals together with their families."

The PCHR had also said that "whatever findings can be made will be based on one-sided proof, contrary to the basic requirement that reaching any conclusion, one must always hear the other side."

"We don't believe we can do that job, so should they not give the job to those who believe it can be done?" Avancena said.

Asked what could have triggered such a decision, Avancena said, "I don't really know, but what worries me is how the victims (of alleged military abuses) and their families will react to this."

Meanwhile, Mrs Aquino's announcement drew strong reactions from a human rights alliance which the Government's move "indicates the final collapse of its human rights policy and was meant to appease the military."

The Philippine Alliance of Human Rights advocates (Pahra) said since the PCHR was created, the Government "has not given it support by way of even acting on its numerous recommendations."

It added that the PCHR "has not even been able to successfully prosecute a single military officer for human rights violations." Meanwhile, military field commanders yesterday said they welcome the President's move to have human rights violations of the rebels investigated.

The commanders said it was "a morale victory" for the soldiers in the frontlines to have NPA atrocities investigated.

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CSO: 4200/356

CHURCH GROUP URGES RECALL OF 'WAR' ORDER

HK231141 Manila THE MANILA TIMES in English 23 Feb 87 p 2

[Text] The Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace [EMJP], a churchbased organization, has appealed to President Aquino to recall her order declaring an all-out war against insurgents to avoid a repeat of the 10 February Lupao massacre where 17 civilians were killed.

The EMJP feared that "a genocide is in the making" as a result of the President's order to the military to resume its counter-insurgency operations following the end of a 60-day ceasefire this month between the government and the rebels.

It said the massacre of innocent civilians in Sitio Padlao, Barangay Namulandayan in Lupao, Nueva Ecija allegedly by members of the 14th Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army warned of more bloodbath should Mrs Aquino pursue her iron-fist policy against the insurgents.

The President committed a costly blunder in ordering the military to step up its war against the rebels, the movement said.

"How can 'unsheathing the sword of war' bring about peace? Does calling on the military to war assure the Filipino people of peace and security?" the movement asked.

"The order for war is itself a blunder because it is not the answer to the people's demands for food and freedom, jobs and justice," it said.

The organization said what was alarming was that Mrs Aquino called to war "an unreformed and undisciplined military whose record of human rights violations speaks well of its repressive and anti-people character."

It said that during Marcos' time, "the military was the dreaded instrument of repression. And in the one year existence of the Aquino administration, it is proving to be the same."

It added that the people had held Mrs Aquino morally responsible for the Lupao massacre and the other massacres by the military under the new government.

Besides retracting her order for war, the group urged President Aquino to:

--Reorient and revamp the military by purging its ranks of "murderers, coup plotter" [as published] and ridding it of its pro-U.S. orientation.

--Junk the U.S. sponsored counter-insurgency program and deport all U.S. military and other foreign advisers.

--Implement genuine and comprehensive socio-economic reforms.

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CSO: 4200/356

EDITORIAL DESCRIBES GOVERNMENT KNOWLEDGE OF IMPENDING COUPS

HK210851 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 21 Feb 87 p 6

[Editorial by Jesus Bigornia: "Malacanang Has Prior Knowledge of Coup Plots"]

[Text] Incredible as it may seem, Malacanang appears to know about impending coups d'etat even before many of the plotters do. Long before the GMA-7 incident erupted, the Palace had the Armed Forces on "red alert." In similar fashion, the military was triggered into a high state of preparedness in preceding threatened or aborted takeovers. Now, a week before a scheduled putsch anyone with his wits about him could hear the whispers on the wind: "A concerted, if widely separated military uprising is due to erupt any time now."

A usually reliable source is button-holed during a party by a man known for his close ties to the presidential palace and is asked: "Why can't leaders of your opposition parties stop the deposed dictator from stirring trouble here?" Getting no answer, the man proceeds to cite how the Honolulu exile has allegedly incited so-called "loyalist" troops in Northern and Central Luzon and in the Central Visayas to seize military installations in an effort to embarrass the Aquino Government before the international community.

Eavesdroppers have since embellished the one-sided conversation. Dates and places have been added to give the report a semblance of credibility. Their tenure in jeopardy by the ratification of the new Constitution, the military brass see in the new alarms an opportunity to bolster popular belief that only they can hold the fragmented military establishment together. Camp Aguinaldo "monitors" the new coup rumor. A new "red alert" is in the offing.

Should the plot materialize, it would prove one thing: Malacanang has indeed a pretty good intelligence network, more pervasive, it seems, than that set up by the previous Armed Forces chief of staff, General Fabian Ver. Which has its points. It places government in a position to squelch any attempt at toppling the infant Aquino regime and allow it to carry out its programs as best it could while fighting off a worsening communist insurgency and a Muslim separatist rebellion.

Peasant leader Jaime Tadeo refused to appear before the "Citizens' Mendiola Commission" to testify as on the carnage that marred a KMP demonstration which he led last 22 January. He excused himself from appearing on the ground that

he had received numerous threats on his life. Now, who could have sent him such threatening messages, certain quarters ask. Maybe the members of the military contingent he publicly denounced as having fired upon the demonstrators.

That may be so. But unkindly souls suggest it could be any of the survivors of the fateful "March on Malacanang" or relatives of those felled by the bullets of soldiers and policemen. It is reasoned out that as the chairman of the demonstrating peasant group, Mr Tadeo led his followers into a death trap. A relative bent on revenge could just as easily be triggered into attacking Mr Tadeo as would the police or the military.

Now that the opposition is drawing up its Senate slate, their leaders, finding their ranks of traditional politicians decimated, can make no better choice than in former Deputy Minister Rolando de la Cuesta, erstwhile head of the Philippine Coconut Authority, to represent Ilocandia. He fits into the mold of the non-traditional politico now favored by the public. Rolly is remembered by colleagues as a self-effacing achiever and manager which earlier made him the youngest cabinet member. Going by the results of the plebiscite, de la Cuesta could count on a formidable Northern Luzon base. A product of the University of the Philippines college of law, serving for two terms as president of the UP Alumni Association, De la Cuesta took further studies in business management in Harvard. His experience and expertise should go a long way toward enhancing the prestige of the Senate.

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CSO: 4200/356

NEW CEASEFIRE URGED IN NORTHERN MINDANAO

HK291331 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 20 Feb 87 pp 1, 12

[By Roy C Sinfuego]

[Text] Cagayan de Oro City---Catholic Church leaders urged the military command in Northern Mindanao yesterday to suspend military operations against communist insurgents in the region to pave the way for the continuation of the ceasefire between the New People's Army (NPA) and the government.

Monsignor Patrick Cronin, Archbishop of Cagayan de Oro City, called, called on military authorities in the region headed by Brigadier General Mariano P Adalem to suspend their operations against the rebels in preparation for the holding of another peace negotiation in the region.

Cronin, chairman of Misamis Oriental and Northern Mindanao Ceasefire Committee, said further provocation and armed clashes between the government troops and the NPA guerrillas will only escalate the hostilities in the region.

Adalem, Regional Unified Command 10 Chief, said there has been no serious encounters between the NPA rebels and government troops since the termination of the ceasefire last 8 February.

Cronin said renewed fighting will only displace more people in the rural areas, seriously affecting the normal activities of the farmers. He said government and military leaders should not cast doubt on the sincerity and initiative of church leaders who are being contacted by the rebels for the peace talks.

Adalem, in an interview with BULLETIN at his headquarters at Camp Evangelista, this city, said various civic and religious groups are in favor of the continuation of the ceasefire.

In fact, Adalem added, the National Democratic Front (NDF) regional negotiators, with the concurrence of the members of the Mindanao Peace Forum, had opted to continue the ceasefire on the regional level even if it collapsed on the national level.

Cronin said military operations are considered a negative factor in the attainment of peace in the region.

PHILIPPINES

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT SEEKS PART IN MINDANAO TALKS

HK181353 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 18 Feb 87 pp 1, 18

[Text] Zamboanga City--The Executive Council of Region 9 (Western Mindanao) autonomous government has approved a resolution seeking the inclusion of non-MNLF sectors in the second round of peace talks scheduled at the Lantaka Hotel tomorrow.

The resolution, which was unanimously approved by the Lupong Tagapagpaganap ng Pook [Regional Executive Council], also asked President Aquino that it be included as negotiator in the on-going peace talks between the government and the Moro National Liberation front (MNLF).

Chairman Elnorita Pamaran Tugung said that regional officials should be given roles in the democratic processes granting full autonomy to Muslims in Southern Philippines.

The two regional autonomous governments--Regions 9 and 12--were established during the Marcos regime but were branded by the MNLF as a "farce."

Then President Marcos ordered the creation of the two autonomous regions in "faithful compliance with the Tripoli Agreement."

MNLF legal counsel Didagen Dilangalen said the agreement reached in Jeddah provided that the MNLF panel submit the autonomy issue to the people for decision through democratic processes.

Dilangalen said that the MNLF would prefer to have a series of direct consultations with the people of Mindanao instead of holding a plebiscite and referendum.

He said that consultation would enable the people to understand the issues on Muslim autonomy.

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CSO: 4200/356

AFP FRATERNITY TO FIGHT DISBANDMENT EFFORTS

HK201325 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 20 Feb 87 pp 1, 5

[By Staffmember Manny Mogato]

[Text] The ruling body of the Guardians Brotherhood, Inc., a military fraternity, yesterday said it would resist any move to disband the organization.

Reacting to a news report that there has been a recommendation to President Aquino to disband Armed Forces fraternities, including the Reform Armed Forces Movement (RAM), the Brotherhood leaders said they would be forced to "go underground" if their group is disbanded by the civilian Government and the military high command.

The Guardians claimed a membership of 70 percent, or 180,000 in the 250,000 strong Armed Forces. They said the Brotherhood was simply a "fraternal organization seeking unity in the Armed Forces."

"We do not have any political ambition," a member of the fraternity's National Central Committee said. "We follow strictly the chain of command."

They said Armed Forces chief of staff General Fidel V. Ramos has the support of the entire Armed Forces, particularly the Guardians. They, however, said they would respect and follow anyone who would succeed Ramos as the military chief. "Our loyalty is to the position and not to the person holding it," another Central Committee member said.

Guardian leaders also denied any involvement of their members in the GMA-7 siege last 27 January. They also said there are two existing Guardian organizations in the military. They said some disgruntled military officers were using the Brotherhood to drum up support for their plan to grab power. "They have been deceiving a number of our members but all their efforts were thwarted," another leader said. "We are the biggest stumbling block in the efforts of some misguided and adventurist young officers in the military to control the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] and the Government," the Guardians leader said.

Guardians' supreme commander, Major Efren Arayata, helped abort last month's coup attempt by several soldiers when he ordered Guardian members to follow

orders only from Ramos. Meanwhile, dispelling rumors on a move to oust Ramos, Defense Secretary Rafael Ilete yesterday said the chief of staff has the "solid backing" of the military.

PC [Philippine Constabulary] civil-military operations officer, Brigadier General Dionisio Tan-gatue added Ramos was an "effective and good leader."

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PHILIPPINES

RUC HEAD ASKS MEN TO RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS

HK231417 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 23 Feb 87 p 18

[Text] Camp Dangwa, Benguet--Brigadier General Jesus de la Cruz, Ilocos region unified command chief yesterday directed his men in the region to strictly respect human rights and the rule of law while conducting military operations.

"Care must be specifically taken to avoid casualties among civilians who may be caught in the crossfire," Cruz stressed. Cruz's directive came on the heels of the Lupao, Nueva Ecija incident, where 17 civilians were killed. Cruz, however, said the military in the region should continue to pursue reconciliation efforts with the insurgents.

In a directive issued to all military unit commanders, Cruz encouraged the pursuance of peace negotiations in provinces where the local Communist Party of the Philippine-New People's Army-National Democratic Front heads are showing willingness to continue dialogs.

He said in areas where the rebels show no willingness, intensive peacekeeping functions of the military should be pursued. However, in areas where the communist rebels commit atrocities and terroristic activities, vigorous security operations should be pursued against them.

Tasked to implement the directive was Lieutenant Colonel Jose C. Lalisan Jr., regional command chief of operations.

Meanwhile, ranking military officers, including retired Armed Forces generals of Central Visayas, Saturday openly pledged their unqualified support for Armed Forces chief General Fidel V Ramos.

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CSO: 4200/356

REPORTAGE ON NPA KILLINGS, MILITARY ENCOUNTERS

NPA 'Atrocities' in Cagayan, Cebu, Davao

HK270443 Baguio City Mountain Province Broadcasting Company in English 0330
GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] In Cagayan, the San Mariano barangay captain in Lal-lo Town, and a woman jeepney driver died in an NPA ambush Tuesday morning. In Cebu, hundreds of barangay residents in Talisay, Mandaue City and Minglanilla fled their homes in the wake of NPA atrocities over the past days. At least 72 families are now reportedly staying at a sports complex in Talisay and Minglanilla proper. At least four persons have died and six others were wounded in separate NPA raids in Talisay, Mandaue, Minglanilla and Sibonga since Monday.

Meanwhile Army soldiers averted an NPA attempt to destroy the bridge connecting Malaybalay and Mpasugong in Bukidnon the other day. The soldiers recovered (?standard) fuses and two boxes of explosives planted at the foot of the new (Pusugan) Bridge.

Elsewhere, in Davao City, military authorities have exhumed at least 16 bodies of suspected salvage [summary execution] victims of the NPA. Metrodiscom [Metropolitan District Command] chief Lieutenant Colonel Franco Calida said the burial site was found following the mass surrender of hard-core rebels and their supporters after the 60-day truce expired last 8 February. More graveyards [word indistinct] and are to be dug up today and within the next few days.

Raid, Loot Albay Town Hall, Police Station

HK270115 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] NPA guerrillas raided the Santo Domingo Town Hall in Albay yesterday morning and ransacked the mayor's office, the treasurer's office and the police station. Police station commander Ernesto (Bolisa) Buenavista said the rebels came in two groups aboard passenger jeepneys. The policemen on duty were caught by surprise and could not resist because of the presence of many civilians. The rebels carted away two armalite rifles, two pistols and several police uniforms. They also took P3,500 in cash and many pieces of equipment and valuables from the mayor's office and the treasurer's office. The rebels destroyed the police communications equipment before escaping, to

prevent calls for reinforcement. Santo Domingo Town is 16 kilometers east of Legazpi City.

31 Killed in Clashes

HK261113 Hong Kong AFP in English 1102 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Manila, 26 February (AFP)--At least 31 people were killed in fighting between security forces and communist guerrillas that has flared up in four regions of the Philippines since Sunday, according to official reports here Thursday.

Communist guerrillas also raided a town in the Bicol region southeast of Manila Thursday, but there were no casualties.

Soldiers backed by artillery battled some 200 New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas on the hills outside Maco town in the south Sunday, leaving 15 communist rebels dead, the official Philippine News Agency (PNA) said.

The military authorities in Lucena City said NPA rebels had ambushed security forces near General Nakar town east of Manila Wednesday, killing two policemen and six members of the paramilitary Philippine Constabulary, including their commanding officer.

Communist guerrillas ambushed a party of soldiers in the southern city of Davao near Maco Wednesday, and the ensuing gunbattle left one soldier and three rebels dead, PNA reported.

NPA rebels waylaid a small bus near the northern town of Lal-lo Tuesday, killing two civilians and wounding three. A government militiaman riding on the bus is still missing, PNA said.

Military spokesmen here could not immediately confirm the PNA reports.

About 30 NPA rebels stormed Santo Domingo town in Bicol Thursday, clearing the town hall and the police armory of weapons and office equipment while holding six police guards at gunpoint, a military spokesman in nearby Legazpi city said.

The town was taken by surprise and there was no firefight. The rebels withdrew shortly afterwards, Major Juanito Calilong told reporters.

Soldiers fought a 30-man NPA band that abducted a local resident near Las Navas town on the central island of Samar Sunday, military spokesmen in nearby Catarman town said.

The soldiers killed two rebels and recovered the hostage, who was unharmed, they told reporters.

Meanwhile, the military authorities have exhumed from various burial sites the corpses of 16 persons believed to have been summarily executed by the NPA in Davao City this year, PNA said.

NPA rebels that surrendered recently led the military to the secret graves and said there could be at least 100 such corpses around the city, PNA added.

1 Killed in Davao; 3 Killed in Zamboanga

HK260415 Baguio City Mountain Province Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] The latest reports say one NPA was killed and four civilians were wounded in a gunbattle at Davao City's (Tubos) District early this week. The slain rebel was identified as (Ronelo Eltoras).

In Zamboanga del Sur, three people, two of them farmers, and a 10 year old girl were shot dead by suspected NPA hitmen in San Pablo Town in Pagadian City. The assailants reportedly escaped on board two pump-boats.

Government Offensive in Panay

HK271309 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 27 Feb 87 p 13

[By correspondent Manuel Mejorada]

[Text] Iloilo City--Government troops poured out into the mountain vastness of Panay Island last week to start a major offensive against suspected New People's Army (NPA) camps.

"It's all systems go," Brigadier General Domingo T Rio, Western Visayas unified command chief, said. "This means we will use everything that we have from cannons to helicopters to planes."

Rio made the announcement following the rejection by the local panel of the National Democratic Front (NDF) of the government's offer for holding peace talks at the regional or local level.

In an official statement sent to the Western Visayas Times, NDF spokesman Samuel Lagulao said NDF-Panay fully supports the decision of the NDF peace panel at the national level to walk away from the negotiating table unless fundamental issues are resolved.

In an interview, Rio said, "The enemy at this time is preparing to hit us... We will not wait for them to hit us... We will hit them ahead... That is something they can be sure of."

The offensive has already netted the military three captured rebels who were cornered at their mountain hideout in barangay San Antonio, Cuartero, Capiz last Sunday, Rio said.

He said army troops were also pursuing a band of NPA rebels who were believed responsible for the killing of a barangay captain and three other civilians in Dumarao, Capiz last week.

Rio said the army troops will conduct a sustained search and destroy operations against the NPA for at least one month. "We want to neutralize them before they could cause more harm and damage," he said.

Meanwhile, the NDF declared its continuing efforts to respond to the people's desire for a negotiated peace through political settlement. However, it decried the "militarization" of Panay as a major obstacle to this objective.

Ultimatum to Davao Rebels

HK271321 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 27 Feb 87 p 9

[By Aurelio A Pena]

[Text] Davao City--Communist rebels operating in this city have only up to the end of the month to surrender "otherwise, they will face the wrath of the Armed Forces of the Philippines" the military here said yesterday.

The rebels are also expected to be attacked by some 1,000 armed ultrarightist groups like the Alsa Masa [People's Peasant Uprising], Pulahan, and Tadtad, supported by at least 680,000 anti-communist civilian vigilantes in some 20 barangays in this city.

Rebel safehouses in the city, according to Metrodiscom [Metropolitan District Command] commander Lieutenant Colonel Franco Calida, have already been pinpointed by his command. "We will raid all these hideouts," Calida told newsmen.

Forty NPA members have turned themselves in, along with their firearms. Six rebels were mowed down in running gunbattles this week.

"No rebel surrenderers will be entertained by the military after 28 February," Calida said.

Rebel areas in the city controlled by the New People's Army have fallen into the hands of Alsa Masa during the last few weeks. "There is no such thing as being neutral in this fight against communism," Calida stressed to local and foreign newsmen. "A village is either for or against the communists."

Barangays and sitios where the rightists are strong are Agdao, Talomo, Mabini-bucana, Bago Gallera, Panacan, Exodus, San Isidro-buhangin, Maa, Matadahan, Madapo Hill, Ulas, Puan, part of Toril, Malvar and Father Selga.

Residents living in other rebel infested areas who chose to remain "neutral" and refuse to join the Alsa Masa anti-communist movement will be considered communist supporters and will be targets of attacks next month, Calida said.

Supporting the military in the biggest anti-communist campaign ever launched in this city, is radio announcer, Jun Porras Pala, of station DXOW.

Pala intensified his anti-communist commentaries when radio station DXMF was bombed by NPA operatives last month. Pala coordinates with Calida in providing support to the Alsa Masa.

Only three weeks after the ceasefire expired, the troops and Alsa Masa men overran an NPA training camp in Matina Pangi, conducted lightning raids and engaged rebels in running gunbattles, killing six insurgents. They recovered 30 firearms, documents and flags. They also uncovered shallow graves containing the remains of at least 12 persons killed by the rebels last year.

More Troops for Pangasinan Towns Urged

HK020151 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Text] In Lingayen, Pangasinan, a Pangasinan town official has called for the deployment of more troops in the province where he says the communist NPA has established a so-called shadow government. Binmaley Acting Mayor Brigadier General Valerio Perez said in some towns in the province the NPA has stepped up taxation activities, particularly among farmers and businessmen. He cited the case of Dansol, a rebel-infested town, where the insurgents practically control the area. According to Perez, the only way to stop the NPA's progressive taxation is to deploy more troops where such activities are prevalent.

20 NPA, 3 Police Killed in Davao

HK010918 Hong Kong AFP in English 0915 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Text] Manila, 1 March (AFP)--At least three policemen and 20 communist guerrillas were killed when 100 rebels attacked a police post in the southern Philippines, military reports said Sunday.

One communist rebel was killed and three wounded in a separate incident in the same area Saturday, the reports said.

Some 100 heavily-armed communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels on board a commandeered bus and a truck used for hauling bananas attacked a police outpost in Mandug village near Davao City, some 930 kilometers (558 miles) southeast of the capital Saturday, the paramilitary constabulary here said.

(Three policemen were killed in the attack on the detachment, which was manned by less than 10 policemen at that time, Davao Military spokesman Douglas Rosete said in the southern city.)

Twenty NPA rebels were also believed to have been killed in the attack "as evidenced by bloodstains in their route of withdrawal and as narrated by the civilian populace," a report from the Philippine Constabulary (PC) in Manila said.

The rebels made off with machine guns, small firearms and grenade launchers from the detachment, the PC report added.

Army scout rangers and regional special action forces were sent to pursue the rebels, Colonel Rosets said.

In the other incident Saturday, an NPA rebel was killed and three of his companions wounded in a firefight with government troops in Tugbok district on the outskirts of Davao, the PC said.

Five NPA rebels were captured after the fight, the PC said.

Activities in Pampanga, Albay

HK280519 Baguio City Mountain Province Broadcasting Company in English 0330
GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] In San Luis, Pampanga, NPA rebels shot dead the police chief and a gunshop owner before making good their escape with their looted loan of firearms.

In Lucena City the remains of slain PC [Philippine Constabulary] Captain Efren Catapan will be buried in the Saint Ferdinand Memorial Park. Catapan was among the military men killed in an encounter with the NPA in general Nakar, Quezon. Some of the injured victims in the general Nakar firefight were brought to the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] medical center of V. Luna hospital in Quezon City to join other recent NPA ambush casualties from Isabela, Cagayan and Albay.

Meanwhile, military operatives are now pursuing earnestly the armed rebels sighted earlier in the countryside of Daraga, Albay. Led by PC Major Juanito Salido and Daraga police chief Ramoncito Tred, they were in hot pursuit of the rebels in Barangays Sinikayam, Hinikaw, Alala and Malupado where the police patrol shot it out with the rebels last Wednesday.

Separate Cebu Clashes

HK241125 Hong Kong AFP in English 1116 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Text] Cebu, Philippines, 24 February (AFP)--Communist rebels killed a constable, a retired policeman and three civilians in separate incidents in this central Philippine city Tuesday, military spokesmen said.

Two of the civilians were killed when suspected New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas lobbed a grenade into a house in the Cebu suburb of Talisay, the spokesmen said. A mother and her infant were also injured in the attack.

The third civilian was shot to death at his home in Talisay before dawn.

The former policeman and the constable were killed in two other attacks in Cebu Tuesday, the military spokesmen said.

The two civilians killed in the grenade attack were suspected to be members of an anti-communist group, but the military spokesmen had no explanation for the murder of the third civilian, except to say that they believed communist insurgents were behind all the killings.

The military also said that about 500 residents of Talisay had fled their homes for Cebu following the killings. Many of the Talisay residents were airlifted to the city by Air Force helicopters, they said.

Communist insurgents said meanwhile that Corazon Aquino has betrayed Filipinos who thrust her to the presidency in a popular uprising last year, and called for support for their "revolutionary popular war."

The revolt that toppled Ferdinand Marcos was "more importantly a struggle for basic social change" rather than a simple struggle against the former strongman, the National Democratic Front (NDF) said a year after the event.

"However, the composition of the ruling coalition that emerged after, and the policies and programs that the government adopted, point to a betrayal of the people's mandate," the NDF said in a press statement.

"We in the NDF firmly believe that the resolution of the fundamental problems of the Filipino people rests on themselves," the statement quoted NDF spokesman Antonio Zumel as saying.

"It is only just for the NDF to carry on with the revolutionary popular war. We will continue to hold on to our arms, and engage in unarmed and other legal forms of struggle as well, to defend and preserve the people's revolutionary gains."

The communist-led alliance, which boycotted the fraud-ridden presidential election in February 1986 that triggered the revolt, charged that the Aquino Government has implemented Mr Marcos' counter-insurgency program.

This featured the same "repressive and sadistic" military death squads and armed anti-communist groups, it said.

The government's economic program is aimed at allowing expansion of U.S. and foreign interests and the "tightening of imperialist control over the economy," the statement added.

NPA Kills Military Agent, 2 Civilians

HK210316 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] [Word indistinct] a New People's Army (NPA) killer killed a military agent and two civilians and wounded two others in the Apayao public plaza in Binarbagan, Negros Occidental on Wednesday. A belated PC [Philippine Constabulary] report identified the victims as military agents Sameul Isarat, [name indistinct], and Jun Marania de la Cruz. The two vendors were killed when the NPA hitman threw a grenade at the plaza to distract the attention of the military.

In Tandaga, Surigao del Sur, a hitman of the NPA was arrested by the FC. The suspect, Diosdado Avila, confessed himself as the killer of former Surigao del Sur governor Gregorio Murillo last 23 October, 1985. Avila said he killed Murillo upon orders of higher NPA authorities.

Intensified Attacks in Isabela

HK210252 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company 2300 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Isabela was the scene of intensified rebel attacks since the peace talks failed. Last Monday, some 150 communist rebels took up hostages inside a school's compound in Barangay (buboy), Santo tomas, Isabela. One of the hostages identified as Willy Pua was being ransomed for 100,000 pesos. A military report said that while the rebels were waiting for the ransom money, some of them commandeered in Isuzu jeep [word indistinct] through several barangays nearby and confiscated firearms and valuables they could lay their hands on.

Loot Nueva Vizcaya Government Office

HK230403 Baguio City Mountain Province Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text] Communist terrorists looted and burned the Department of Agrarian Reform's municipal office in [word indistinct] Norte, Nueva Vizcaya last 17 February. This was reported yesterday by Camp Aguinaldo. Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Commander Arturo Lumibao said in his report that the rebels carted away typewriters, one single sideband radio and important documents.

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CSO: 4200/356

PHILIPPINES

MANILA RETAIL PRICES RISE SLIGHTLY IN DECEMBER 86

HK251321 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 25 Feb 87 p 2

[Text] Retail prices of commodities in Metro Manila in general rose 0.54 percent in December over a year ago, according to the latest data provided by the National Census and Statistics Office (NCSO).

The retail price index for all items, with 1978 prices at 1000 index points, rose to 375.2 points last December from 373.2 in December 1985.

General wholesale prices were up 3.17 percent in December. The increase in the prices at which retailers buy their goods from the wholesalers led them to increase their selling prices.

Drops in retail prices were recorded for crude materials except fuel, mineral fields, lubricants and related materials, and manufactured goods classified chiefly by materials. These commodity groups registered price decreases of 1.84 percent, 20.62 percent, and 2.34 percent, respectively.

Retail Price Index in Metro Manila
(1978 equal 100)

Year/ Month	All Items	Food	Beverages & Tobacco	Crude Materials Except Fuel	Mineral Fuels, Lubricants & Related Materials
1985	366.4	338.6	346.3	369.0	519.0
1986	370.6	347.8	394.0	376.2	426.8
January	377.8	354.7	365.1	383.7	505.7
February	373.4	350.8	369.8	384.2	454.1
March	373.1	349.5	373.7	382.0	448.8
April	369.4	344.5	376.9	376.0	433.9
May	366.6	343.2	379.2	377.7	427.5
June	363.6	340.1	386.9	375.9	407.4
July	367.8	345.0	401.3	374.2	407.1

August	367.8	344.0	414.1	372.7	407.3
September	368.0	344.0	415.9	371.5	407.4
October	371.0	349.1	414.2	370.6	407.4
November	373.7	353.1	415.0	372.6	407.4
December	372.2	355.2	415.4	372.8	407.4

Year/ Month	Chemicals Including Animal & Vegetables Oils and Fats	Manufactured Goods Classified Chiefly By Materials	Machinery & Transport Equipment	Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles
1985	411.2	416.7	595.2	404.6
1986	429.5	411.3	316.0	420.9
January	419.1	416.2	301.9	416.7
February	422.6	418.1	312.0	421.2
March	430.5	418.7	317.2	423.2
April	434.4	418.8	318.9	424.3
May	428.7	409.1	317.5	419.0
June	430.2	407.4	316.4	414.9
July	432.3	408.3	317.1	418.6
August	428.4	408.4	317.1	420.5
September	432.5	407.2	317.7	420.7
October	432.1	407.2	318.4	421.8
November	432.4	407.9	318.6	423.1
December	431.3	408.6	318.6	426.6

Source: National Census and Statistics Office

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CSO: 4200/356

PAPERS NOTE 'CAMPAIGN' AGAINST CITIBANK

Sources Say Campaign 'Working'

HK241401 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 24 Feb 87 p 2

[By Daniel C Yu]

[Text] When Citibank chairman John Reed took issue with other foreign bankers on giving the Philippines much relaxed repayment terms last November, little did he know that his efforts would fast become the rallying point for the Philippines to take a bolder stance in the debt negotiations.

The collapse of debt rescheduling talks last November--thanks to Citibanks' intransigence--is now described by some analysts and observers as "a blessing in disguise."

It prompted the government to rethink its negotiating strategy and gave it time to generate international and local support for its debt restructuring proposal. This support effectively put Citibank on the spot.

Perhaps most significantly, while the talks are suspended, there have arisen new developments in other debtor countries with important potential implications for the Philippines. A decision of Brazil, a plan of Argentina and possible similar moves in other debt-ridden countries could change the quality of the agreement which the Philippines can get from its foreign bank creditors.

Citibank is the biggest foreign commercial creditor of the Philippines, accounting for about \$1.7 billion of the country's \$15 billion debt to 483 foreign private banks. It is also the biggest commercial creditor of Brazil and the second biggest of Argentina.

Worsening economic conditions in major debtor countries and their intention to approach the debt problem more radically has put the Philippines in a much more advantageous position than it ever was, and are expected to have an impact on the Philippines when its debt talks resume.

Government negotiators are now downplaying their demand for better restructuring terms in favor of a commitment for new money from the banks to support the 1987-1992 economic development plan.

Last November, chief negotiator Finance Secretary Jaime V Ongpin was not too keen on the concept of a "growth contingency facility" in which banks would promise some \$7 billion in additional new loans if financing from other sources fail to sustain the growth momentum projected in the six-year plan.

He said growth facility was put in the "bank burner" until the Philippines could get donor governments and multilateral creditors to endorse the concept.

With the deadlock in bank talks, the government met with the World Bank-led Consultative Group of bilateral and multilateral official creditors last month.

While Ongpin did not come back with a clear endorsement for the growth facility, he managed to revive the proposal into what is now referred to as a "shared funding" concept for banks to consider once talks resume.

Government economic managers involved in the debt talks say the new-money proposal may end up as a trump card which some officials now consider as more crucial than the terms or tenor of an agreement that can be worked out with the banks.

Strong support for Philippines from the international donor community during the Consultative Group meeting has also whetted the appetite of government negotiators for a much more favorable debt restructuring agreement with the commercial banks than envisioned in November.

"Certainly we are in a much better position to negotiate with the banks than in November, but it is important that we put down what we want and make the banks know what it is," a key technical staff member of the Philippine panel commented.

In the meantime, government negotiators are winning by a substantial margin in their posturing stance against Citibank that started with a hint that the government may take punitive actions against "intransigent" banks.

The government called off the threat early this month after finding "no legal basis" under current laws to take such action, but it got the private sector to take a unified stand behind its debt proposal, and against Citibank.

Key sources in Citibank in Manila admit that the "campaign" against the bank is working and is scaring away some depositors, particularly Filipino-Chinese businessmen worried over the impact of recent demonstrations outside Citibank offices on the perceived strength of the bank.

Important government agencies with large deposits in Citibank have begun to reduce their business affiliation with the bank. While not admitting that their moves have anything to do with the "bad boy" image of Citibank and saying they are in line with diversifying company portfolios, it is a clear indication of escalating government pressure to get a better deal from the debt negotiations.

A government analyst believes that, from all these developments in which Citibank has played a key role, the Philippines has ironically benefited. Rather than being castigated, Citibank should be "commended" for taking actions that now prove favorable to the country's ability to negotiate from a position of strength.

PNOC Boycott

HK210813 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 21 Feb 87 p 4

[By Staffmember Ray Enano]

[Text] The state-owned Philippine National Oil Co (PNOC) is cutting down its business with Citibank, N.A.'s Manila branch in retaliation to the creditor bank's tough line on the country's debt-rescheduling proposal, according to PNOC Chairman Vicente T Paterno.

The move was made after verbal instructions from Finance Secretary and chief Philippine negotiator Jaime V Ongpin. "He said we should diversify our exposure," Paterno said.

The deputy executive secretary for energy affairs explained that the PNOC will be reducing to 40 percent its credit business with Citibank.

Paterno said PNOC's business relationship with the bank is in the form of 300 to 360-day trade credit facility. This is already down to 50 percent of its level in June last year totalling about \$300 million or 60 percent of the company's foreign borrowings.

He said PNOC will cut down its credit facility further to at least 40 percent from the present \$150 million.

As PNOC's loans from Citibank mature, Paterno said, the oil company would seek new credit lines from other banks and assign the servicing of the trade credit facility to other banks. He said it is possible that the reduction in PNOC's facility with Citibank could reach to as much as 30 percent.

Paterno explained that PNOC actually started diversifying its loan exposure with Citibank as early as in the second half of 1986. "I'm uncomfortable to have the company owe money to only one creditor," he said. He said he had observed that of PNOC's total borrowings of \$500 million then, 60 percent or \$300 million were from Citibank.

Paterno said the company's borrowings from Citibank were also substantially reduced following the drop in oil prices last year.

Citibank charges PNOC's trade credit facility at 0.75 percent over Libor (London Interbank Offered Rate) or less than what the Central Bank pays to the bank because of the short-term maturity of the loan.

PNOC is the first company that has started "boycotting" Citibank which Ongpin blamed for the delay in restructuring the country's \$3.6 billion foreign debt.

Other business groups such as the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) have supported retaliatory action against Citibank.

/12913

CSO: 4200/356

DOLLAR SPECULATION FEARED WITH PESO DEPOSIT DECREASES

HK191333 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 19 Feb 87 p 2

[By Reporter Daniel C. Yu]

[Text] Major banks are set to slash their interest rate on peso deposit to 4 percent effective next month while foreign-based banks are considering a reduction to 3.5 percent.

The situation has started to worry bankers who note that it could lead to a shift of funds away from peso deposits to dollar holdings.

The problem becomes more complicated in the light of the slack in loan demand which persists despite current historic low lending rates.

Lending rates to prime accounts of some big commercial banks have gone to as low as 7 percent to 9 percent. For other clients, average lending rates have declined to between 12 percent and 14 percent.

"The shift (to dollar holdings) is not happening yet, but fund holders have started to consider such an alternative," a bank analyst said.

Adding to the apprehensions about money are persisting talk of military coups and the unsettled insurgency problem. These are considered "significant factors" in the movement of funds in today's highly liquid financial market.

The root of the problem, on banker pointed out, is that the excess funds are seeking safe havens that will yield enough returns in a situation where investment options remain very limited.

One option is to buy government securities but even these are no longer lucrative. Yields on Treasury bills, for example, have fallen considerably from last year because of the excess cash of the buyer banks.

Later, during the last two auctions, rates on Treasury bills and notes rose marginally, still not enough to attract strongly the large fund holders. In fact their rise resulted from a fall in buying offers--a reflection of banks' perception that the rates had gone down low enough and become no longer acceptable to some banks.

The stock market has started to lose some of its glitter over the last two weeks, with the volume of trading on a decline. Its turnover has fallen to about P50 million on the average, from a range of P80 million to about P100 million previously.

Part of the reason has been the impact of declining prices of commodities that affect the stock market, such as copper and gold, and a perception that the economic outlook has dimmed in the face of a projected oil price increase.

Some businesses have started to replenish their inventories in anticipation of a surge in demand for their products later this year, but most of them use their own funds instead of bank loans. No major loans are being made to traditional borrowers.

The situation could worsen later if inflation, as a result of election spending and on oil price rise, moves up to 5 percent to 6 percent from its current low level.

An inflation rate about the interest rate on bank deposits will leave peso depositors with negative spreads. It could trigger a mass movement of funds into dollars holdings and exert pressure on the peso-dollar exchange rate.

Movements in the peso-dollar rate have been perceptible but slight during the last few weeks, with the official rate still hovering close to P20.50 to a dollar.

The bank buying rate averages about P20.30 per dollar while the Central Bank's buying rate is P20.40.

On the other hand, the rate in the black market for telegraphic transfers is roughly P20.90 and for dollar bills, about P20.53.

Currency analysts believe that the difference in the official rate and the black market rate remains thin and is unlikely to trigger any major shifts to dollar holdings. But they add that if it widens further, the difference could lead fund holders to speculate on the dollar.

Speculation could begin relatively easily in a market that is very liquid because of the dearth in loan demand.

The liquidity of most banks is reflected in the continuing decline in the interbank loan rate, which has averaged 4.5 percent this month, compared to 10 percent to 15 percent in December and 5 percent to 10 percent last month.

Some banks have taken advantage of the low interbank rate to borrow and cover for reserve deficiencies while investing their own available funds in government securities and earning on the spread.

About the only thing moving in the loan market is the consumer financing sector, which appears to be enjoying some limited activity.

Not all banks are about to venture into this area because of its high risk nature. Also, borrowers have been cautious because most of these loans carry floating interest rates beyond their first year.

The difficulties of the crisis years remain much a reality for both the banks and the borrowers, and the situation leaves fund holders with very limited investment options.

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CSO: 4200/356

AGRICULTURAL LOAN FUNDS INTEGRATED; COUNCIL FORMED

HK201349 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 20 Feb 87 p 2

[By Reporter Michael D. Marasigan]

[Excerpts] President Aquino yesterday created the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) to replace the Presidential Committee on Agricultural Credit and the Technical Board for Agricultural Credit (TBAC) and to integrate the administration of all agricultural loan funds.

The President yesterday signed Executive Order No. 113 through which she also created the Comprehensive Agricultural Loan Fund (CALF) which will consolidate all farm loan funds, including those administered by agencies other than the department of agriculture and good. As planned, the CALF is also intended to cover foreign loans for agriculture such as the Agriculture Loan Fund from the World Bank, after renegotiations with concerned foreign entities.

The ACPC, which will be attached to the DAF will assist in synchronizing all of its credit policies and programs. It will support the DAF's priority program on land development/improvement and farm production, farm mechanization; production and supply of agricultural input; transportation and storage; processing; marketing and other related activities; small farm financing; and resource mobilization. It will also review and evaluate the economic soundness of all ongoing and proposed agricultural credit program.

The EO states that "credit funds intended for agricultural and agriculture-related purposes are presently diversely managed and their utilization can better be optimized if they were consolidated."

The CALF integrates the many fragmented, separate funds for agricultural lending into a single span managed by the DAF. The purposes of the consolidation is to: 1) Enable the DAF to focus its financing support toward the small farmers and fishermen; 2) Enable the DAF to gain the flexibility to respond not only to the production credit requirements of farmers but the marketing and processing as well; 3) to professionalize the management of the government's agricultural credit funds, and to minimize the cost of government credit administration; and, finally, 4) to preserve and nurture the funds' growth through optimum investments.

In a brief statement before yesterday's signing, agriculture and food secretary Ramon Mitra said: "The total credit requirements of the Philippines agricultural sector are very great in comparison to the amount now in the hands of the government. We have estimated that the demand for agricultural credit for 1987 is at least P60-B. Right now, the government has a total of 49 separate agriculture loan funds. The available resources of this fund as of September 1986 is only approximately P6.5-b. Of that total, only about P700-m is now directly controlled by the DAF.

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CSO: 4200/356

TAX REVISION INCREASES 1986 GOVERNMENT REVENUE

HK251319 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 25 Feb 87 p 2

[Text] Tax adjustments made on alcoholic drinks and tobacco products under the Aquino Government drastically increased government revenue in 1986, BUSINESS DAY research shows.

Bureau of Internal Revenue statistics show that the new tac system imposed for alcoholic beverages resulted in a 26 percent increase in revenues to P3.63 billion in 1986 from P2.88 billion in 1985. Alcoholic products include distilled spirits, fermented liquors, wines, motive powers, and compounded liquor.

On the other hand, revenues for tobacco products similarly rose by 70 percent to P5.12 billion in 1986 as against the 1985 collection of P3.02 billion.

Inspection fees generated in 1986 from tobacco including leaf tobacco, partly manufactured tobacco, and finished products made a moderate increase of 24 percent from 1985's record of P8.24 million to P10.2 million.

The new tac system for tobacco and alcoholic products, contained in Executive Order No. 22, amends the National Internal Revenue Code to increase cash inflow for the government by imposing higher levies on products deemed as "non-essentials."

Under EO No. 22, the ad valorem on fermented liquors (except tuba, basi, tapuy and similar domestic fermented liquors) will be 50 percent but not less than P1 per regular 320-cubic-centimeter bottle.

The order calls for tax increases of 20 percent and 40 percent on local cigarette brands and 50 percent on those of foreign brands.

The first phase of the tax increase on local brands was implemented in June 1986 and the second phase last January. The first and second phases of the tax rate on local cigarettes raised revenues by 10 percent to 50 percent,

respectively. Revenue collection for foreign brand cigarettes on the other hand rose by 60 percent.

However, notwithstanding the dramatic upsurge in the overall tax collected for tobacco products, specific taxes on the same posted a negative growth of 57 percent in 1986 to P124,951.96 against a year ago level of P743,562.04.

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CSO: 4200/356

COMPULSORY ARBITRATION URGED IN INVESTMENT CODE

HK251257 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 25 Feb 87 p 2

[Text] Businessmen yesterday proposed that the draft Omnibus Investment Code of 1987 provide for compulsory arbitration of labor disputes in vital and export-oriented industries.

Citing the rash of strikes in some vital industries, particularly those in semiconductor companies, businessmen told trade and industry officials during a public hearing yesterday on the proposed code that compulsory arbitration would be imperative to attract new investments.

Present labor laws allow the Department of Labor and Employment to assume jurisdiction over labor disputes affecting [word indistinct] interest or to certify it for compulsory arbitration by the National Labor Relations Commission.

During the hearing, businessmen said the labor department was unable to settle strikes at semiconductor manufacturers such as Philips Component, Stanford Microsystems, and Silicon, which were considered vital industries affecting the national interest.

Trade and industry undersecretary Lilia Bautista explained that the original draft of the Omnibus Investment Code contained a provision for compulsory arbitration for vital industries but the provision for compulsory arbitration for vital industries but the provision was removed because it had not been cleared with labor department officials.

"The assumption is that the (Labor Department) is efficient enough to handle labor disputes without our intervention," she said.

Officials of the Department of Trade and Industry did not close the door on the proposal to provide for compulsory arbitration. Bautista said a provision with a limited time span--two or three years--may be inserted.

"We will discuss (the proposal) with the labor department officials," she said.

Several questions were raised during the public hearing about new tax incentives that would be given to investors.

The proposed provides for an income tax holiday for eight years from the start of commercial operation of pioneer enterprise and five years for non-pioneer firms, so long as the companies are registered from 1 December 1986 to 31 December 1988.

Businessmen asked how they could avail themselves of the incentives. Some asked how they could "get around" the black-and-white provisions of the code.

Trade and Industry undersecretary Tomas Alcantara said that the holiday is intended to put "everybody on an equal footing" for at least an interim period.

On whether tax credits could be converted into payment for cost of utilities, Alcantara said that this is an issue that should be addressed to government agencies responsible for policies that eliminate disparities.

Businessmen also noted that in other ASEAN countries such as Malaysia, each industry has a different power rate commensurate to its ability to pay. A proposal was raised during the hearing that the scope of the Board of Investments be widened so that it would have the authority to "tailor-suit" the needs of each industry--especially as regards power and utility rates. Business said these costs are double those in other ASEAN countries.

Most of the questions raised during the hearing were clarificatory and not opposed to provisions of the draft code. Alcantara said, "most of those in favor (of the code) are no longer asking questions. The types of questions raised here, mostly for clarification, are not reflective of the acceptability of the code."

He said that the BOI [Board of Investments] would accept suggestions for the proposed code until Monday. He added that he expected the final draft of the code to be presented to the Cabinet in two weeks.

Trade and Industry Secretary Jose S Concepcion Jr. said the proposed code reverted partly to Republic Act No. 5186, the first Investment Incentive Law, passed in 1967.

The proposed code provides for tax exemptions rather than tax credits (RA No. 5186 provided for both), as is the system in other ASEAN countries, he said.

Concepcion added that, to attract capital, authorities were of the consensus that the new code contain not only incentives administered by the BOI but also incentives administered by the Export Processing Zone Authority and Phividec.

"A comparison with the incentive laws of other ASEAN countries showed that existing incentives should be aligned to the incentives granted by other ASEAN countries to make the Philippines more competitive in the export market," he said.

Aside from the income tax holiday, the proposed code provides for various fiscal and non-fiscal incentives that makes no distinction between the different types of registered enterprises, whether domestic market, export or agricultural producers.

BRIEFS

VER'S SON SMUGGLES WEAPONS--Major Rexor Ver, son of the former Armed Forces chief of staff, General Fabian Ver, is "confirmed" to have landed somewhere in Ilocos Norte two weeks ago with a large stock of weapons, including a thousand Armalite rifles, the military said yesterday. A Camp Aguinaldo official said the report of Ver's arrival coincides with another one indicating that communist terrorists intend to celebrate today's first anniversary of the February revolution by conducting sabotage activities in Metro Manila and armed raids against remote military outposts in the countryside. The official said General Fidel Ramos, Armed Forces chief of staff, has ordered all field commanders to take strict, but discreet, steps to protect the thousands of people expected to visit Camp Crame and Camp Aguinaldo today. The official said these "discreet" steps will include quick mobilization of soldiers and the fast dispatch of such equipment as tanks and helicopters to any trouble spot in the country. The elder Ver, together with Rexxon and Colonel Irwin Ver, an older brother, fled the country with deposed President Marcos a year ago. [Text] [Manila THE MANILA TIMES in English 25 Feb 87 pp 1, 6 HK] /12913

MERCENARIES, PEACE TALKS--Audit Commission Chairman Teofisto Guingona said it is entirely wrong for any foreigner to train and engage in military activities anywhere in the country. Guingona was reacting to reports that U.S. Major General John Singlaub is in the country training mercenaries to fight the communists. Chairman Guingona said he was optimistic that the localized cease-fire talks with the communists will bear fruit in three to four months. He made the remarks at the recent Kapihan sa Dagupan [Dagupan Coffeeship] sponsored by the Rotary Club and Journalists Association of Pangasinan. He noted that the NPA were keen on continuing the peace efforts on a regional level. He said that the government is seriously studying the granting of amnesty to rebels who fled to the hills for political and economic reasons. [Text] [Baguio City Mountain Province Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT 26 Feb 87 HK] /12913

TWO DIE IN POLITICAL KILLINGS--A former Mindoro Batasan [parliament] member and a Batangas Town OIC [officer-in-charge] were killed over the weekend in what officials fear to be political killings linked to the coming polls. Shot dead last Saturday in San Vicente, Occidental Mindoro, was a former member parliament Pedro Mendiola. He was the leader of the Nacionalista Party, Cayetano Wing, in the Southern Tagalog Province. Also killed in Batangas City was Domingo (Tris), the OIC of Taysan Town. Mendiola was gunned down by unidentified men who were coming out of the San Vicente (?town square) after

he crowned the town's fiesta queen. (Tris) was shot inside a (?concert) in Barangay Balagtas in Batangas City. The motive for that slaying was not clear, but [word indistinct] said there was an indication it was politics. [Text] [Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 22 Feb 87 HK] /12913

MULTI-SECTORAL APPROACH TO INSURGENCY--Armed Forces Chief General Fidel Ramos called for a multi-sectoral approach to the insurgency problem. Ramos spoke at the Talakayan sa Makati [Makati Discussion]. He said the resumption of military operations against rebels after the cease-fire agreement expired is part of the big job the military owes to the entire nation. Ramos added the [word indistinct] insurgency arises from lack of employment, livelihood, transportation, and other needs. Everybody, including the private sector, should pitch in to help stop rebel atrocities. [Text] [Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 20 Feb 87 HK] /12913

REVISION OF PEACE PANEL URGED--Various organizations in the southern Philippines are asking President Aquino to revise the composition of the Mindanao Peace and Development Commission and the negotiation panels to give equitable representation to the four regions of Mindanao. The request comes from 88 heads of civil, religious, business, and professional organizations in Mindanao. They said the panels should have people with first-hand knowledge of Mindanao's problems such as those who live there and have actual knowledge of the problems. They want representatives from Cotabato, Zamboanga, Lanao, and parts of Davao who will deal with the Moro National Liberation Front. [Text] [Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 25 Feb 87 HK] /12913

AQUINO COMMENDS PERSONAL GUARDS--President Aquino yesterday [1 March] hailed the Armed Forces as the shield and sword of the Philippine Republic, particularly the Presidential Security Group [PSG] in charge of protecting the president. The chief executive made these remarks yesterday in addressing the members of the Presidential Security Unit at Malacanang on the PSG's first anniversary celebration at Malacanang Park. The PSG is under Colonel Voltaire (Jasmin). President Aquino noted that she is now an inviting target of all would-be assassins. According to her, any threat against the president is a threat to the republic and democracy. [Text] [Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 1 Mar 87 HK] /12913

BANGLADESH FOREIGN MINISTER--The foreign minister, Mr Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, has stressed the need for sharing mutually beneficial economic activities between Bangladesh and the Philippines for strengthening the relations between the two countries. He was speaking at a luncheon given in his honor by his Philippines counterpart Salvador Laurel in Manila. He said the people of Bangladesh are grateful to the people of Philippines for being one of the first group of countries to have accorded diplomatic recognition to our country after the war of independence. Earlier, Mr Laurel in his speech acknowledged the consistent support that the Bangladesh gave to the Philippines in various forms and on a variety of issues. He lauded the success of Bangladesh in implementing medicine and drug policy. [Text] [Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 22 Feb 87 BK] /12913

CSO: 4200/356

THAILAND

PAPERS VIEW ARMY CHIEF GIVING UP ISOC HEAD POST

BK121010 [Editorial Report] Two Thai language papers--MATICHON and NAEO NA-- on 11 February carry editorials on the change of director of Internal Security Operations Command [ISOC] from Army Commander General Chawalit Yongchaiyut to Prime Minister Gen Prem Tinsulanon.

The MATICHON editorial, on page 6, entitled: "A Retreat Before an Offensive," says it may appear that by changing the ISOC administrative structure to designate the prime minister as the director of ISOC amounts to cutting down on power of Gen Chawalit, the current army commander, "but it reflects a political offensive of the Army in that it has emphasized that the Army no longer has the major responsibility in the administration of the counterinsurgency task. It is the civilian side which must assume major responsibility, with the military establishment playing the support role."

The editorial concludes: "The Army's and the Army commander's retreat is a political offensive, not a defeat, because the Army commander will be able to avoid concerted critique campaign of "hawkish groups" which favor armed suppression of the communists over the "dovish groups" use of political operations. A very important issue is that from now on the Army's policy will gradually be adopted by the government as its counterinsurgency policy in order to achieve total defeat of the communists."

The NAEO NA editorial, on page 3, entitled: "Fight Against the Communists," says the ISOC directorship change is "a step forward in Army development." The editorial says: "Counterinsurgency requires use efficient tactics, and emphasis on ideological struggle will be more successful than the previous use of armed suppression. We suggest that the ISOC use of the secret fund should be considered now that the new ISOC structure has been implemented. The ISOC director has the authority to use the secret fund which is bigger than any other government agencies and its careless use has served as useful conditions for the communists to the detriment of the government."

The editorial notes that for example, officials assigned to ISOC received quicker promotions than other officials who worked on the same project at the same location. It concludes: "In the current situation in which the government has huge debts, economical use of counterinsurgency budget and reduction in the manpower of the Armed Forces to the essential size will certainly ease the burden the military puts on the national budget."

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CSO: 4207/136

PAPERS VIEW ARMY CHIEF'S CRITICISM OF POLITICS

BK171551 [Editorial Report] Two Thai language dailies--THAI RAT and MATICHON--on 17 February carry editorials commenting on Army Commander General Chawalit Yongchaiyut's remarks critical of Thai politicians and political parties in his address to the Public Speaking Association in Chiang Mai Province on 14 February.

The page 6 MATICHON editorial, entitled: "The Spirit and Soul of Democracy," notes that the army commander's statement has caused "strong repercussions in Thailand's political society" because what he said does conform with reality and because Gen Chawalit himself is holding such an important position as the army commander. In Thai politics, "the attitude of the army commander is always politically significant."

The editorial says: "Although his comment on politicians and political parties indicates his profound and accurate knowledge of politics, Gen Chawalit must always keep in mind that since he, as a permanent government official serving in the armed forces, can express his views on politics in a straightforward manner, he must also be ready to accept critical feedback from the people outside the armed forces."

In conclusion, the editorial adds: "Thus far, the military personnel are always ready to criticize vulnerabilities or weakness of other people, in particular politicians and political parties. However, they are the least mature when receiving criticism from others. In many cases, the people who harbor negative feelings against those in the armed forces or oppose the military's unwarranted interference in politics are condemned and branded as the unpatriotic ones. Since the present army commander has opened the freedom of expression era, it should be the time for democracy to be put into practice to a greater extent."

The page 3 THAI RAT editorial, entitled: "Politics in the Eyes of the Military," says that Gen Chawalit might have intended to use his outspoken remarks to "remind politicians of their duties."

The editorial notes: "Although such a political point of view was expressed by a person holding a high position in the army and member of the group that

an bring about any change, we are of the opinion that the army commander might be watching political parties and political development with concern--because the development runs counter to his wish. The development of political parties and democracy always takes time in all countries. However, Thai political parties have not developed continuously due to the intermittent presence of democracy.

"At the same time, it tells us whether soldiers have good faith or are fed up with the present political atmosphere. Politicians often forget their duties and the commitments they have to the people. Moreover, interest groups or even politicians themselves have used political parties for personal gain."

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CSO: 4207/136

ARMY OFFICIAL ON SOUTHERN SUPPRESSION EFFORTS

BK141009 Bangkok NAEQ NA in Thai 14 Feb 87 pp 1, 2

[Text] Major General Ophat Phothiphaet, deputy commander of the 4th Army Region, citing a report from the Civilian-Military-Police Combined Unit 43 in Yala Province, disclosed that on 12 February three Chinese Communist guerrillas surrendered to Thai authorities and identified themselves as Mrs. Choeng Paming, 47, attached to the 8th division, a mass mobilization unit active in the area of Betong District of Yala Province; Chuchingchoeng Saechu, alias Sunehan, 40, a mass mobilization and logistics cadre in Zone 2 and; Mrs Lim-liphing Saeliu, alias Wahongchen, 37, a mass mobilization cadre also in Zone 2. All three are Malaysian nationals.

They told Thai authorities that the continuous suppression operations launched by the 4th Army Region have forced most of the Chinese Communists guerrillas to flee to new areas where they are starving and facing difficulties and hardship. Many of their camps have been captured and the Thai-Malaysian border has been sealed.

At 1540, Border Patrol Police team 4463 clashed with a band of Chinese Communist guerrillas at Aitako village, Tambon Suchirin, Suchirin District, Narathiwat Province for about 15 minutes. Police Private Somchai Phromsuwan was wounded and later died at Sungaikolok hospital. Villagers informed the authorities that two Chinese Communists were also killed during the incident.

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CSO: 4207/136

THAILAND

PREM MEETS VISITING ROK NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

BK120842 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 11 Feb 87

[Text] Speaker of the South Korean National Assembly (Chai Hyung Lee), accompanied by ROK Ambassador to Thailand Kim Chwa-su, called on Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon at Government House on 10 February. The ROK National Assembly speaker and his party are visiting Thailand as guests of the Thai Parliament at the invitation of Parliament President Ukrit Mongkhonnawin from 9 to 12 February. The visit is also a return visit for the Thai Parliament president's visit to South Korea in August 1986.

The speaker of the ROK National Assembly welcomed the long and smooth relations between Thailand and South Korea. He said the Korean people are appreciative of Thailand's contribution of troops to fight in the Korean War. The speaker of the South Korean National Assembly expressed sympathy for Thailand over the border and refugee problems. The Thai prime minister said the Thai Government and people welcome the visits to Thailand by high-level leaders of South Korea. Thailand and South Korea have always maintained smooth relations. Korean President Chon Tu-hwan made an official visit to Thailand in July 1981. As a result, agreements were reached between the two countries for an expansion of bilateral cooperation, and several projects have already been implemented to that effect. The Thai prime minister also mentioned about Thailand's burden from the problem in Cambodia and the refugees. He called on international attention to assist Thailand in solving the problems.

Secretary General to the Prime Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri and Spokesman of the Prime Minister's Office Michai Wirawaithaya were also present during the meeting.

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CSO: 4207/136

BRIEFS

THANKS FOR LAO GREETINGS--Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon has sent a thank-you message to the president of the LPDR Council of Ministers for his greetings note on the king's birthday. Prem's message reads: On behalf of the Thai Government and people, I am impressed by your excellency's goodwill in your greetings message on the king's birthday and the Thai National Day. I take this opportunity to convey good wishes to your excellency and to wish the Lao people continued, greater happiness and prosperity. On the same occasion, Gen Prem also sent a message to the vice president of the LPDR Council of Ministers and LPDR foreign minister. The message reads: I sincerely thank you for your greetings and good wishes on the birthday of the king and the Thai National Day. May your excellency enjoy good health and greater happiness and prosperity. [Text] [Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 10 Feb 87 BK] /6662

BANGKOK ALERT 'RUMOR'--There was a rumor on 14 February at night that several army units in Bangkok were placed on alert to prevent a coup attempt. On 14 February, Valentine's Day, there was the Wai Sa Mae Fa Luang Fair in Chiang Rai Province. General Prem Tinsulanon, General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, a large number of high-ranking officers, and leading personalities from the government and private sector attended the celebration in Chiang Rai. According to a source, the rumor originated from Gen Chawalit's instruction to his close officers before leaving for Chiang Rai that they should remain in barracks instead of going out for fun. "I myself received telephone calls from colleagues asking about the rumor. I found out after checking that there was no truth in it," the source said. [Text] [Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 17 Feb 87 p 2 BK] /6662

ROYAL GUARDS REGIMENT TRANSFERRED--A high-level source in the Army disclosed that Army Commander in Chief General Chawalit Yongchaiyut on 2 February signed an order transferring the Royal Guards Regiment from the 1st Infantry Division of the 1st Army Region to be directly under the jurisdiction of the army chief. Commander of the 1st Army Region Lieutenant General Watthanachai Wutthisiri said the change is aimed at reducing steps of command for the unit which is responsible for providing security for their majesties the king and queen. Once the unit is placed under direct jurisdiction of the Army, it will be able to carry out duties without having to go through the steps which caused delay. For example, in the past when the unit needed a helicopter,

it had to go through several steps of command before getting it. Now, it can ask for a helicopter from the Army. Major General San Siphon, commander of the 1st Infantry Division, said the change will facilitate the work of providing security for their majesties. The Royal Guards Regiment is commanded by his royal highness Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon who is holding the rank of special colonel at present. [Text] [Bangkok NAE0 NA in Thai 17 Feb 87 pp 1, 16 BK] /6662

CS0: 4207/136

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

BRIEFS

SOLDIERS SURRENDER AT BORDER--Aranyaprathet--Four Vietnamese soldiers yesterday crossed the border into Thailand at Ban Wang Mon to seek resettlement abroad. The four soldiers, including a pilot and a logistical officer, were arrested by a Border Patrol Police patrol near the border opposite Poipet District of Kampuchea. The four unarmed Vietnamese are being questioned. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Feb 87 p 2 BK] /9738

CSO: 4200/357

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE, AND AID

SRV COOPERATES WITH USSR, CSSR, NEPAL

BK201239 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] A delegation of the Vietnamese party officials led by Le Phuoc Tho, secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee has paid a 6-day visit to the Soviet Union. The Vietnamese guests were received by Nikonov, secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee. The two sides discussed measures for further cooperation in agriculture between Vietnam and the Soviet Union.

In mid-February, a delegation of Czechoslovak central council of cooperative paid a working visit to Vietnam. Under an agreement signed between the two sides, Czechoslovakia will help Vietnam equip its small industrial and handicraft cooperatives. Czechoslovakia will also help Vietnam train militia cadres and technicians.

Vietnam attended the Asian roundtable conference held in Katmandu, Nepal from 17 to 19 February. Meanwhile, Vietnam attended a meeting of leaders of radio and television network of the socialist countries in Moscow, the Soviet Union.

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CSO: 4200/357

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE, AND AID

EMULATION MOVEMENT IN BUILDING TRADES LAUNCHED

BK211728 Hanoi VNA in English 1455 GMT 21 Feb 87

[Text] Hanoi, 21 Feb (VNA)--A Vietnam-USSR international socialist labor emulation movement was launched here today in anticipation of the 70th anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution and other major anniversaries of the two countries.

The movement which is jointly sponsored by the Vietnamese Ministry of Building, the trade union of the Vietnam building branch, the Economic Counsellor Office, and the trade union of the Soviet Embassy in Vietnam, is aimed at mobilizing Vietnamese cadres and workers and Soviet experts working at various construction sites in Vietnam to step up the tempo of construction, ensure the quality of the building, fulfill the state plan, practice thrift in the use of material and fuel, and lower the cost.

Most worthy of note are labor emulation drives to put the Generator Group No 1 of the Tri An hydroelectric power plant into operation by the end of 1987, the Generator Group No 1 of the Hoa Binh hydroelectric power plant in mid-1988, use to the full capacity of the Boiler No 8 of the Generator Group No 4 of the Pha Lai thermopower plant, and speed up the tempo of construction of the enlarged Lao Cai aparati mine, the Xuan Mai prefab-concrete factory and the Dap Cau glass factory.

/9738

CSO: 4200/357

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE, AND AID

BRIEFS

SRV-PRK TREATY ANNIVERSARY--A talk was held in Phnom Penh on Tuesday [17 February] by the Kampuchea-Vietnam Friendship Association to mark the 8th anniversary of the SRV-PRK Treaty of Peace, Friendship, and Cooperation. Speaking on the function, Vice President of the association Chhuk Chhim and Vietnamese Embassy Counselor Do Minh Chau exalted the Vietnam-Kampuchea special militant solidarity. They expressed their belief that the special solidarity and militant alliance between the two countries will be constantly consolidated and developed and their all-round cooperation will become more effective. Vice President Chhuk Chhim expressed the Kampuchean people's gratitude to the Vietnamese people and army for not only saving them from the Pol Pot genocide but also for wholeheartedly helping them in national construction and defense. [Text] [Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 18 Feb 87 BK] /9738

AID TO CAMBODIA--In the past 4 years, Vietnam has helped Kampuchea build more than 600 economic projects. One of them is the rubber processing enterprise in Ratanakari Province with a capacity of 4,000 metric tons a year. Last year, the rate of goods exchange between Vietnam and Kampuchea increased by 30 percent compared with 1985. All this results from the spirit of the Indo-chinese summit in February 1983 which aims to promote all-round cooperation among Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea. [Text] [Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 19 Feb 87 BK] /9738

SRV HELPING CAMBODIAN CONSTRUCTION--Hanoi, 19 Feb (VNA)--Vietnam is helping Kampuchea in building a 300-ton paper mill, a 20,000-ton rice warehouse and a 200-ton launch. The building of other development projects such as the Chrouy Changvan bridge and a political school in Phnom Penh, a creche in Kompong Chhnang Province, a senior-high school in Siemreap Oddar Meanchey, and a leprosy in Preah Vihear Province are underway with Vietnamese assistance. Last year, 763 cadres from public offices and provinces across the country were sent to Vietnam for further studies. For its part, the capital city of Hanoi has helped its Kampuchean twin city of Phnom Penh build a infirmary at a suburban district. The inauguration of this infirmary was held yesterday in celebration of the fifth anniversary of the treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Kampuchea. Ho Chi Minh City has helped in restoring the national post school in Phnom Penh and training Kampuchean cadres. Up to now five batches with more than 1,000 students have graduated from the school. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1451 GMT 19 Feb 87 OW] /9738

RUSSIAN POET PUSHKIN'S DEATH--Hanoi, 20 Feb (VNA)--The 150th anniversary (10 February 1837) of the death of Russian poet A.S. Pushkin was marked in a grand ceremony here this morning. It was attended by Trinh Ngoc Thai, deputy head of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and general secretary of the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity and Friendship with Other Peoples, and I.N. Ouritski, minister counsellor of the Soviet Embassy in Vietnam. Thuy Toan, deputy director of the literature publishing house and the first translator of Pushkin's poems into Vietnamese, spoke of the life and work of the great Russian poet. On this occasion, I.N. Ouritski presented the Pushkin medals, the press combatant insignias and diplomas of commendation to a number of Vietnamese teachers and cadres who had done the translating and teaching of the Russian language. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1503 GMT 20 Feb 87 OW] /9738

CSSR AMBASSADOR RECEIVED--Hanoi, 20 Feb (VNA)--The new ambassador of Czechoslovakia to Vietnam, Miroslav Kapoun, today paid a courtesy visit to Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong. The Vietnamese leader had a cordial conversation with the Czechoslovak diplomat. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1502 GMT 20 Feb 87 OW] /9738

DRA AMBASSADOR RECEIVED--Hanoi, 20 Feb (VNA)--The new ambassador of Afghanistan to Vietnam, Mohammad Faruq Karmand, today paid a courtesy visit to Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong. The chairman had a cordial talk with the Afghan diplomat. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1459 GMT 20 Feb 87 OW] /9738

LAO ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--Hanoi, 21 Feb (VNA)--Bouas' Chaleunsouk, Lao ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Vietnam, today presented his credentials to Vice President of the State Council Nguyen Huu Tho. Vice President Nguyen Huu Tho had a cordial talk with the Lao ambassador. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1458 GMT 21 Feb 87 BK] /9738

BURMESE ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--Hanoi, 21 Feb (VNA)--P. Kyaw Han, Burmese ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Vietnam, today presented his credentials to Nguyen Huu Tho, vice president of the State Council. Vice President Nguyen Huu Tho had a cordial talk with the ambassador. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT 21 Feb 87 BK] /9738

MOSCOW SOCIALIST YOUTH FAIR--Hanoi, 23 Feb (VNA)--Fifty two projects and more than 100 products of young Vietnamese workers will be sent to the Scientific and Technical Fair of Young People in Socialist Countries scheduled to open in Moscow from 20 March to 30 June, 1987. They have been selected from more than 200 projects and hundreds of new products displayed at a recent exhibition sponsored by the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union. They cover various economic aspects including agriculture, forestry, fishery, electricity, electronics, construction, building materials, and engineering. Great efforts in preparation for the participation in this fair have been made since October 1986. This has helped motivate the young Vietnamese generation to embark on scientific and technical research and enhance its solidarity and cooperation with young people in other fraternal socialist countries. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0710 GMT 23 Feb 87 OW] /9738

SRV-CSSR FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION--Hanoi, 26 Feb (VNA)--The executive board of the Vietnam-Czechoslovakia Friendship Association met here today to review the organization's activities in 1986 and worked out a program of actions for 1987. The association's president, Dang Huu, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and director of the State Commission for Science and Technology, was present. The meeting agreed that the association's activities last year had actively contributed to consolidating and strengthening the friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Czechoslovakia, and helping the Vietnamese people better understand Czechoslovakia's land and people. It also decided that more chapters and sub-chapters will be established in 1987 to further enhance the fine relations between the two countries and peoples. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1534 GMT 26 Feb 87 OW] /9738

POLISH AID TO STORM VICTIMS--Hanoi, 26 Feb (VNA)--Polish Ambassador Marian Ejma Multanski this afternoon handed a token of 160 tons of clothing, medicine and food worth 64 million zloties as Poland's aid to the people in the storm-stricken areas in the central Vietnam province of Binh Tri Thien. Presnet on this occasion were Pham Van Doanh, head of the aid reception committee, and Pham Ba Dien, deputy chairman of the Binh Tri Thien Province People's Committee. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1533 GMT 26 Feb 87 OW] /9738

CSO: 4200/357

HANOI PAPERS REPORT ON CULTURAL CONFERENCE

BK271130 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 27 Feb 87

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Today's NHAN DAN and QUAN DOI NHAN DAN carry reports and photographs on the 24-26 February conference of the Ministry of Culture in Hanoi to review the 1986 performance of the culture sector and to set forth guidelines and tasks for 1987 and subsequent years until 1990. On the morning of 26 February, Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong addressed the conference. Today, all papers carry the text of Pham Van Dong's address.

Presenting a report to the conference, Comrade Tran Van Phac, party Central Committee member and minister of culture, stressed: In the light of the sixth party congress resolutions, in performing cultural activities in 1987, we must thoroughly understand the fundamental viewpoint of using the people as a foundation and of renovating thinking, behavior, and cadre organization. We must struggle to victoriously implement the three major economic programs set forth by the sixth party congress.

The cultural sector must strive to maintain its achievements and create new steps of development so that by 1990 we will have cultural and artistic products and works of value worthy of the importance of major anniversaries such as President Ho Chi Minh's 100th birthday, the 60th party founding anniversary, and 45th national day.

In his address at the conference, Chairman Pham Van Dong stressed the fine and diversified cultural traditions of the Vietnamese nation and the cultural sector's requirements for keeping abreast with developments in the real situation. He said: The Ministry of Culture is assigned the function of scrutinizing the major cultural issues. However, we should absolutely not think that culture is the task of the Ministry of Culture alone. Culture is a component of our revolutionary cause. All sectors, echelons of the party and the state, and all mass organizations should depend on their responsibility to pay attention to culture and to support and coordinate with the cultural sector. Each worker must constantly study to raise the standard of his cultural knowledge and adopt a cultural lifestyle. All activities in our society must be aimed at attaining what is correct, good, and beautiful.

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CSO: 4209/298

NGUYEN THANH BINH MEETS HANOI MEDICAL WORKERS

BK271345 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] On the occasion of Vietnamese Physician's Day, 27 February, Comrade Nguyen Thanh Binh, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the Hanoi Municipal Party Committee, cordially met on 26 February with professors, physicians, nurses, maintenance workers, and managerial cadres representing public health offices of many central and Hanoi establishments.

On behalf of the people, cadres, and workers who had been carefully treated by Vietnamese medical doctors, Comrade Nguyen Thanh Binh sincerely thanked these physicians and their families for their services and wished them more outstanding achievements in their tasks so as to be a worthy core force for protecting and promoting the people's health. Comrade Nguyen Thanh Binh urged Vietnamese physicians to study President Ho Chi Minh's teachings and combine them with their research in order to completely understand the resolution of the sixth CPV Congress and the resolution of the 10th Hanoi municipal party organization congress and to bring about real progress in every task of all cadres, workers, and personnel of the public health sector. They must satisfactorily provide first aid service to the people; improve diagnosis and treatment of patients; enhance the spirit, attitude, and conscience of physicians; improve work on preventing epidemics; and contribute to positively implementing the family planning program to reduce the population growth rate.

On this occasion, various professors, physicians, and managerial cadres expressed their determination to change their work methods and personalities so as to carry out concrete tasks, develop scientific and technological potential, and uphold the socialist physicians' sense of responsibility, thereby contributing to effectively implementing the three major economic programs.

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CSO: 4209/298

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

BRIEFS

LOCAL ELECTIONS PREPARATIONS--Preparations for elections to the eighth National Assembly and People's Councils at village and district levels are underway in Vietnam. Constituencies have been set up in all localities. The coming elections will be held in the spirit of taking people at the root of letting the people know, discuss, do, and supervise. [sentence as heard] Preparations for the elections are going alongside an emulation drive in production and efforts to improve the people's life and ensure law and order. [Text] [Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 20 Feb 87 BK] /9738

CAO BANG ELECTION PREPARATIONS--Cao Bang Province has set up a National Assembly election council and formulated election plans. National Assembly deputies in the province have met with the people to hear their views and aspirations. The provincial VFF committee has discussed with its member organizations over the recommendation of persons for standing in the election and has arranged for candidates to get in touch with voters. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Feb 87 BK] /7358

QUANG NAM-DANANG PREPARATIONS--Quang Nam-Danang Province has taken steps to ensure good results of the National Assembly election. The provincial party committee, administration, and VFF committee have listened attentively to the opinions of the masses and have performed correctly all work in preparation for the election. National Assembly deputies in the province have also met to review and prepare reports on their activities and to study views contributed by voters. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Feb 87 BK] /7358

BINH TRI THIEN PREPARATIONS--The Binh Tri Thien provincial VFF committee has guided its member organizations in 14 districts, towns, and cities in preparing for the elections of the National Assembly and the People's Council at various levels. The province has printed and distributed 6,000 booklets on National Assembly and People's Council election laws and has sent cadres to sound out the opinions and aspirations of the people. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Feb 87 BK] /7358

CSO: 4209/298

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE, AND FINANCE

INDUSTRIAL SITUATION, ACHIEVEMENTS VIEWED

OW190841 Hanoi VNA in English 0701 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Hanoi, 19 Feb (VNA)--Vietnam's northern border province of Cao Bang last year increased its electricity output by more than 2 million kwh over the previous year, up by 0.4 percent over plan. This year it plans to produce more than 10 million kwh.

--The port city of Haiphong has received a 7,500-ton freighter as a gift from the marine service of the Soviet Union. Under the program for cooperation between the two countries, a number of 2,600 to 7,500-ton ships have been delivered to Vietnam.

--The Hanoi export cannery in January turned out 140 tons of products, as much as in the first quarter of last year.

--The industrial service of the central province of Thanh Hoa in January got 15.2 million dong (Vietnamese currency) of output value, up by 2.2 percent over the same period last year. This included 10.8 million dong worth of consumer goods, 71 percent of the volume.

--The southern province of Dong Hai, north of Ho Chi Minh city, last year brought its alcohol distillation productivity to 6,000 liters a day, achieving 130 percent of its yearly plan.

--A 600-kw hydro-electric power plant was put into operation in the central highlands province of Lam Dong. This plant was assembled with equipment made by the South Vietnam electric company and related services along the line of joint efforts by central and local levels and people.

--The southernmost province of Kien Giang has put into operation a 20,00 [number as received] ton per year phosphatous fertilizer plant, the first of its kind in the Mekong River delta.

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CSO: 4200/357

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE, AND FINANCE

NATIONAL TEXTILE EXPORT-IMPORT CORPORATION SET UP

OW231001 Hanoi VNA in English 0702 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text] Hanoi, 23 Feb (VNA)--The Vietnam National Textiles Export-Import Corporation (Textimex) has been established to better serve the development of the domestic textile industry and meet the need of stepping up exports of this important branch of the national economy.

It has been specialized in exporting cotton yarns, knitwear, towels, etc., and importing raw cotton, synthetic fibers and yarns, dyestuffs and auxiliary ingredients, and production equipment, parts and accessories for the weaving industry.

Thus, for its imports, the corporation also assumes the role as the supplier of material needs to the domestic textile industry as a whole.

In addition to direct exports and imports, the corporation conducts barter operations with interested parties in other countries, where transactions of this kind are deemed useful to promote the flow of two-way trade, e.g. knitted goods in exchange for textile fabrics, etc.

Another form of transaction which has become prominent among Textimex's activities in recent years as it creates favorable conditions for developing production in the present situation of the country's economy in general and of the textile branch in particular has been the corporation's export processing cooperation with other countries.

In view of the existing availability of local skilled labor and modern technical equipment, Textimex is prepared to enter into business arrangements with foreign partners for the processing of desired products according to the quality, specification and delivery time set by them.

Where the need arises, the foreign partner may also supply the required equipment and parts for the processing purpose provided that the cost of such equipment and parts will be repaid out of the overall processing costs or in particular cases by installments.

The trust which Textimex now enjoys among its customers is derived largely from the strict fulfillment of its business commitments in terms of product delivery corresponding to the amount of materials supplied by foreign partners and according to the agreed technical standards and norms of materials allowed for the production of each product unit. Evidence of this trust is the increasing volume and variety of processed items which Textimex has been delivering to Hungary under annual contracts.

For its sustained effort, Textimex has successfully expanded its trading activities over the years, including individual exports and imports, barter, export processing and other modes of transaction, not only with CMEA countries but also with other countries.

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CSO: 4200/357

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE, AND FINANCE

BRIEFS

NEW ECONOMIC ZONE'S SUCCESS--Cat Thien, a new economic district in the southern province of Lam Dong last year attained 400 kg of food per capita, 100 kg above the average figure in the whole country. In recent years, thousands of families from other localities have voluntarily settled there to reclaim the land. This year, the district plans to expand the acreage of arable land and to obtain 600 kg of food grain per capita. [Excerpts] [Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 19 Feb 87 BK] /9738

LAM DONG RECEIVES NEW SETTLERS--In January 1987, Lam Dong Province received 1,470 families of 7,000 people and 3,500 workers from Ha Nam Ninh, Ha Son Binh, Binh Tri Thien, and Nghia Binh Province who came to build the new economic zones, thus fulfilling 98 percent of annual plan. The new settlers have quickly stabilized their livelihood and have immediately begun production. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 12 Feb 87 BK] /7358

CSO: 4209/298

NORTHERN PROVINCES URGED TO PLANT WINTER-SPRING RICE

BK200206 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] The Council of Ministers recently sent a message urging northern localities from Binh Tri Thien Province northward to plant all the area of winter-spring rice as follows:

Part of the winter-spring rice area has been transplanted quite early. Now, seedlings have grown old and are budding, posing a serious threat to productivity. Since the crop season has not ended and seed is still available, the Council of Ministers chairman requests the people's committees at all levels to provide urgent guidance for the following tasks:

--Inspect each ricefield. If rice has already budded and is unlikely to yield much, the transplanted rice must be resolutely removed and the area be retransplanted with short-term strains CR-203 or TN-2. All stock of these rice strains must be used for either direct sowing on ricefields or sowing on hard ground as early as possible. Tractors and draft cattle must be mobilized to plow ricefields for retransplanting purpose. All sources of nitrogenous and phosphorous must be used and issued to cooperatives and peasants who retransplant rice.

--Rice must be well cared for, especially irrigated, and protected against insects in order to compensate for possible loss in production volume.

--Cadres of all sectors in provinces and districts must be mobilized to help cooperatives satisfactorily perform the above tasks.

The time for retransplanting rice may be extended to mid March 1987. The administration at all levels is duty bound to provide strict guidance for this task in order to score by all means a bumper winter-spring rice crop.

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CSO: 4209/298

MINISTRIES URGES LOCALITIES TO INCREASE WINTER-SPRING RICE

BK261419 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] On 25 February the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry held a conference to discuss the current agricultural production situation in localities. Directors of agricultural offices of 10 provinces and cities of the Bac Bo delta area and comrade representatives of sectors concerned reported on the situation in their areas and exchanged views on solving numerous difficulties, thereby contributing to satisfactorily supervising the planting of the winter-spring crop.

The reports by representatives of various localities raised the following problems for consideration:

1. Due to general concern about the cold weather at the beginning of the crop season and due to the warm weather at present, almost all localities now have some areas of old winter-spring rice seedlings that grew ears early. This rice seedlings area is about 70,000 hectares. Ha Bac province and Hanoi Municipality each have about 20,000 hectares of such rice seedlings. Various localities are taking concrete measures to solve this problem during the period toward the end of this rice transplanting season. Various localities have learned that despite the warm weather condition this year, if production establishments strictly follow the set transplanting schedules, they will not encounter the problem of having old rice seedlings and early ear-growing rice.
2. The most serious problem facing localities at present is the rapid spread of harmful insects, while insecticide is in short supply. Areas threatened by rice blast in the 10 delta provinces of the Bac Bo region now total more than 10,000 hectares. Brown plant hoppers have appeared in some areas. Stem borers in Vinh Phu Province this year are from five to seven times as plentiful as in previous years. The weather is becoming warmer while humidity is increasing, thus helping harmful insects to develop vigorously.
3. Drought-stricken areas which experienced a shortage of water for irrigating ricefields are expanding in localities: Some 22,000 hectares in Thanh Hoa province and 2,000 hectares in Vinh Phu province.

4. In this winter-spring crop, rice production has faced difficulties. However, areas of subsidiary food and industrial crops have increased as compared with the corresponding period last year. However, due to the drought and shortage of materials, subsidiary food and short-term industrial crops have been given poor care. As a result, some areas under these crops are developing slowly.

Studying these situations and using ideas presented by the representatives of localities, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry set forth the following objectives and measures:

1. We should quickly scrap early ear-growing rice seedling areas in order to plant a new crop. All localities have sufficient seeds for late spring rice, and can replant this crop in order to obtain better results, especially when the time available for this crop is quite enough and the weather is favorable. For early ear-growing rice in low-lying marshy areas, we may uproot and replant them on better fertile fields. Appropriate methods should be carried out in compliance with the concrete conditions of each locality and the custom and experience of the peasants.
2. All localities and production establishments must make it a priority to care for the main rice crop. If each locality can produce a few quintals more paddy in each hectare, then they can offset the losses caused by early ear-growing rice. At present localities must pay special attention to promptly preventing harmful insects, applying more fertilizer, weeding according to schedule, and improving irrigation.
3. Winter-spring weather is very favorable for subsidiary food and major industrial crops. Localities must strive to expand the areas for such crops while paying special attention to applying fertilizer and caring for the crops to obtain higher quality and productivity.

We are planting the winter-spring crop in relatively adverse weather conditions at the time when technical facilities and materials are in short supply and electric power supply is limited. As a result, various sectors and echelons concerned must closely supervise and coordinate with localities to overcome difficulties and ensure the success of this important crop.

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CSO: 4209/298

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION REVIEWED FOR PAST 10 DAYS

BK201430 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Summary] A summary of agricultural production in the past 10 days shows the following points:

"To date, the south has reaped 1.484 million hectares of 10th-month rice, 5 percent more than in the same period last year, covering 92 percent of the cultivated area. Thus, only about 200,000 hectares of rice remain to be harvested. In particular, the rice harvest has been basically completed in the Eastern Nam Bo, central coastal, and Central Highlands provinces. The Mekong Delta provinces have reaped the rice crop on about 88 percent of the cultivated area. Except in the coastal and Zone 5 provinces, the yield of the 10th-month rice crop is higher than in previous seasons. At present, the southern provinces are urgently reaping the 10th-month rice in the remaining area to finish the harvest by the end of February.

"To date, the entire country has planted 1.678 million hectares of winter-spring rice, 19 percent more than in the same period last year, fulfilling 90 percent of the area plan. Thanks to a prolonged period of warm weather, rapid progress has been made in transplanting work. Ha Nam Ninh, Thai Binh, Hai Hung, and Hanoi have basically finished transplanting work."

At present, the winter-spring rice is faced with a shortage of water. "Some 68,000 hectares of rice are suffering from drought. Warm sunshine has also brought harmful insects and diseases. In the north, some 16,000 hectares of rice have been infested chiefly with leaf rollers and stem borers. In the south, the winter-spring rice has been planted on 83 percent of the planned area. The rice plants are growing well, but harmful insects and diseases have developed rapidly, infesting 13,000 hectares in Phu Khanh, 13,000 hectares in Nghia Binh, and 22,000 hectares in An Giang. These localities are actively controlling harmful insects and diseases and preventing them from spreading."

The northern provinces have almost finished harvesting winter vegetables and subsidiary food crops and have begun to plant short-term industrial crops. "The entire country has planted 149,000 hectares of winter-spring vegetables and subsidiary food crops, 49 percent more than in the same period last year."

According to a communique by the Meteorology and Hydrology General Department, the north will continue to have warm sunshine in the coming days, with the daily temperature averaging 15 degrees Celcius. The Ministry of Agriculture has urged all localities to sow various types of short-term seed for retransplanting and mobilize all sources of fertilizer to care for the rice plants already transplanted while making preparations for production in the summer-fall and 10th-month crop seasons. While chemical insecticides are in short supply, peasants must be encouraged to control insects by manual methods. All available land must be put under vegetables and subsidiary food crops to ensure success for the winter-spring crop season.

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CSO: 4209/298

BRIEFS

CAO BANG GRAIN DELIVERY--As of 10 February Cao Bang Province had fulfilled only 30 percent of the total grain procurement target set by the central government and only 17.7 percent of the province's own grain procurement target. With the exception of the three border districts--Trung Khanh, Ha Land, and Tra Linh--which have fulfilled 23.4-42.2 percent of the total procurement target, the other districts have achieved only a low percentage of their procurement plan. Cao Bang city and Nguyen Binh, Ba Be, Quang Hoa, Bao Loc, and Hoa An Districts have fulfilled only 1-15 percent of their plan for grain delivery to the state granary. Meanwhile, the province has fulfilled only 37 percent of its agricultural tax collection plan. This state of affairs was due to the failure of the local party committees and administration to pay due attention to grain procurement and their tendency to rely on the central government's assistance. The grain service of Cao Bang Province recently met with 13 district grain corporations and various sectors concerned such as finance, banking, trade, and communications, to discuss measures to overcome the shortcomings. They will strive to collect 8,000 metric tons of grain in paddy equivalent from now until the end of this month, 1,000 tons more than the targets set by the central level. [Text] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1420 GMT 17 Feb 87 BK] /7358

NEW HYBRIDIZED SEEDS--Hanoi, 16 Feb (VNA)--The Food Crop Research Institute in collaboration with other scientific establishments has over the recent years selected the hybridized dozens of new strains of rice and other food crops with higher yield and suitable to ecological conditions in different parts of Vietnam. This year the institute plans to multiply various varieties, potato, soya, tomato and cabbage all resistant to heat, and supply them to farmers for mass reproduction. Last year the new rice strains were planted on more than one million hectares in the summer cropping season and 1.4 million hectares in the autumn cropping season mostly in northern provinces. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0800 GMT 18 Feb 87 OW] /9738

CSO: 4200/357

LIGHT INDUSTRY

VNA CARRIES INDUSTRIAL NEWS BRIEFS

OW252040 Hanoi VNA in English 1451 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Hanoi, 25 Feb (VNA)--The Song Chon diesel factory under the Ministry of Engineering and Metals has assembled and put into operation 10-ton hammers for its own use.

--The Hai Duong porcelainware factory, east of Hanoi, last month turned out 1.3 million products, meeting 40 percent of its first quarter's production plan. This year, the factory plans to produce 13 million products, 1.4 million more than last year.

--The Hanoi electro-mechanical factory has manufactured two new items: ceiling fans 1.4 meters in diameter and 400-mm table fans with radio, dimmer bulbs and timers.

--The Dien Quang electric bulb factory in Dong Nai Province, north of Ho Chi Minh City, has produced mercury-vapor lamps which had to be imported in the past.

Fashionable woolen pullovers knitted at the Bien Hoa woolen factory, north of Ho Chi Minh City, have been exported. In the first quarter of this year, the factory plans to turn out 140 tons of woolen wear, up by 20 percent over the same period last year.

The electronics factory in Ho Chi Minh City last month turned out 3.6 million electronic parts, meeting 30 percent of its quarterly plan up by 2 percent over the same period last year.

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CSO: 4200/357

BRIEFS

HA TUYEN RADIO NETWORK--Ha Tuyen Province has paid attention to expanding the wired-radio network in the border areas to serve troops and the people of various nationalities as well as to counter enemy psychological warfare activities. The province now has 352 wired-radio stations with over 4,300 loudspeakers. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Feb 87 BK] /7358

DONG NAI TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINE--The Dong Nai provincial post and telegraph sector has completed and put into operation a new telecommunications line between Bien Hoa City and Xuyen Moc District. The installation of this communications line costs 34 million dong. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 18 Feb 87 BK] /7358

DONG NAI COMMUNICATION LINE--The postal service of Dong Nai Province has completed and put into operation a communication line linking Bien Hoa Municipality with the new economic district of Xuyen Moc at the cost of 34 million dong. Overcoming a shortage of supplies, postal cadres, workers, and employees have rationally deployed labor and worked continuously to improve upon, assemble and install equipment with good quality. [Text] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 18 Feb 87 BK] /7358

CSO: 4209/298

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